6
Terajima Yuuji
寺嶋裕二
ダイヤのA
エース

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Ace of Diamond

一流野球を標ぼうした沢村は、
その責任と重圧を感じながら、
沢村を練習面についていくのがやっとの
先輩たちの必死の努力に、
そして念願の仕上げとして組まれた練習試合で
沢村、初の敗北が決まった・・・

絶賛好評発売中
KC 寺嶋裕二作品
■GIANT STEP 全4巻
■ダイヤのA (1)～
以下続刊

第41話／まずは足腰から・・・5

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●週刊少年マガジン2007年第15号～第23号
番外編：第9号

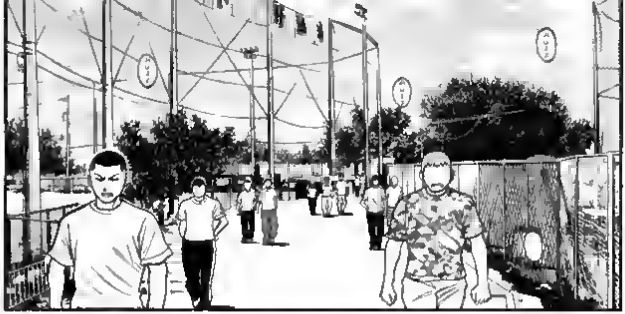
この物語はフィクションであり、
実在の人物・団体・出来事などとは、
一切関係ありません。

CONTENTS

2ND DAY OF TRAINING CAMP
6:00 am
GOT IT!
I'M GONNA THROW THIS OVER NOW!

すかん
OOHH HHH-HHH!
CHAPTER 41
TRAINING STARTS FROM LEGS AND HIPS

DAMN! IS THE FATIGUE FROM YESTERDAY STILL AFFECTING MY PERFORMANCE?
FORGET IT...GO PRACTICE YOUR CATCH...



ARE THEY TRYING TO KILL US SO EARLY IN THE MORNING...
200 TIMES OF SWINGING PRACTICE, CATCHING PRACTICE, JOGGING...
半人前

YOU HAVE TO EAT THREE BIG BOWLS OF RICE!

もんまり。

I'LL BE TELLING THE COACH IF YOU DON'T FINISH THEM!
WHY AM I IN CHARGE OF TAKING CARE OF THESE THREE...
KANEMARU SHINJI (FIRST-YEAR)

CONGRATULATIONS ON ENTERING THE FIRST-STRING!
I'LL GIVE YOU SOME OF MY FOOD! EAT IT!
YOU, ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THIS IS A SHOW OF MY GOOD INTENTIONS!
WHEN YOU TALK, YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A SMILE ON YOUR FACE!
食事
必ず3種以上食べる事!

HOW ABOUT INCREASING THE AMOUNT OF TRAINING YOU'RE RECEIVING THIS AFTERNOON?
YOU DON'T LOOK AS IF YOU ARE TIRED ..

YOU AREN'T EVEN MOVING YOUR CHOPSTICKS!
ONLY YOUR MOUTH IS FAKE-CHEWING!
EVEN THOUGH YOUR VOICE CAN STILL BE SO LOUD
NO SUCH THING! I'M REALLY EXTREMELY TIRED RIGHT NOW..
URGH ...
もぐ
もぐ
じ~~

11:00 am
ぼへら〜〜
スヤ〜

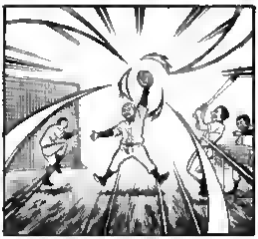
THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL SLEEPING LIKE A LOG
EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF TRAINING ARE THEY DOING!
I..IS HE ALRIGHT? HIM..

ニヤリ
ガバッ
SAWA MURA...
SAWA MURA...
KANEMARU-KUN SAID THAT HE'LL BE TELLING THE COACH IF YOU CONTINUE SLEEPING

4:00 pm
THERE'S NO PLACE WHERE I CAN SLACK OFF ANY-MORE....
YOUR BOOK IS UPSIDE DOWN
uuu
AFTER-NOON PRACTICE
パシッ

ん
ナナナ

I REALLY WANNA GO UP THE MOUND SOON...
DAMN IT...



I DEFINITELY WON'T LET YOU TAKE THE STARTING POSITION!
LEFT FIELDER ICHIRO SAKAI (THIRD-YEAR)
THIS GUY CAN ALSO CATCH A FLY BALL?
THE BALL HE PASSED BACK WAS REALLY SHARP!
RIGHT FIELDER SHIRASU KENJIROU (SECOND-YEAR)
EVEN AT THE OUTFIELD, HE'S DOING PRETTY GOOD.
Damn it...
HE'S REALLY SUITED TO PLAY BASEBALL...
EH! ♪
THERE'S NO CHOICE... I GUESS I'LL LET YOU PITCH.
COMPARED TO HIM...
YOU SHOULDN'T CATCH AT THE OUTFIELD ANYMORE.
Sigh.
WHAT! WHAT'S WITH THAT SIGH!

HUH?
HE'S THE MOST ABLE PLAYER IN OUR TEAM!
IF IT'S "HIM", HE'LL BE ABLE TO CATCH ALL YOUR PITCHES...
THE NET —?!
WELL THEN, JUST PITCH TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!
W...WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR PREVIOUS TEACHER-AND-STUDENT RELATION-SHIP?
DON'T BE TOO NAIVE!
IF YOU WANT OTHERS TO CATCH FOR YOU YOU CAN ASK MIYUKI OR MIYAUCHI...
CHRIS-SENPAI... WON'T YOU BE THE ONE CATCHING FOR ME?

COMPARED TO USING THE TOWEL TO STABILISE YOUR PITCHING POSTURE, PITCHING WITH A BALL SHOULD ALLOW YOU TO GET THE FEEL OF PITCHING BETTER...
ALL THE BALLS
IT'LL BE BETTER IF YOU COULD PITCH AT A SHORT DISTANCE.
JUST PITCH THE BALLS ONE BY ONE!

YOU ABSOLUTELY MUST NOT FORGET THE FEELING YOU GOT PREVIOUSLY FROM YOUR PITCHING!

CHRIS-SEN-PAI...
INGRAIN YOUR PITCHING POSTURE INTO YOUR BODY!
GOT IT?

3RD DAY OF TRAINING CAMP
!

THE DIFFERENCE IN SKILLS IS STARTING TO SHOW..
DAMN IT MY LEGS WON'T MOVE
THE TRAINING IS ONLY JUST STARTING!
WHAT IS IT? CAN'T RUN ANYMORE?
IF YOU'RE TIRED, YOU CAN REST!
!
THERE ARE MANY OTHERS WHO WANT TO REPLACE YOU!
ｸｽｯ

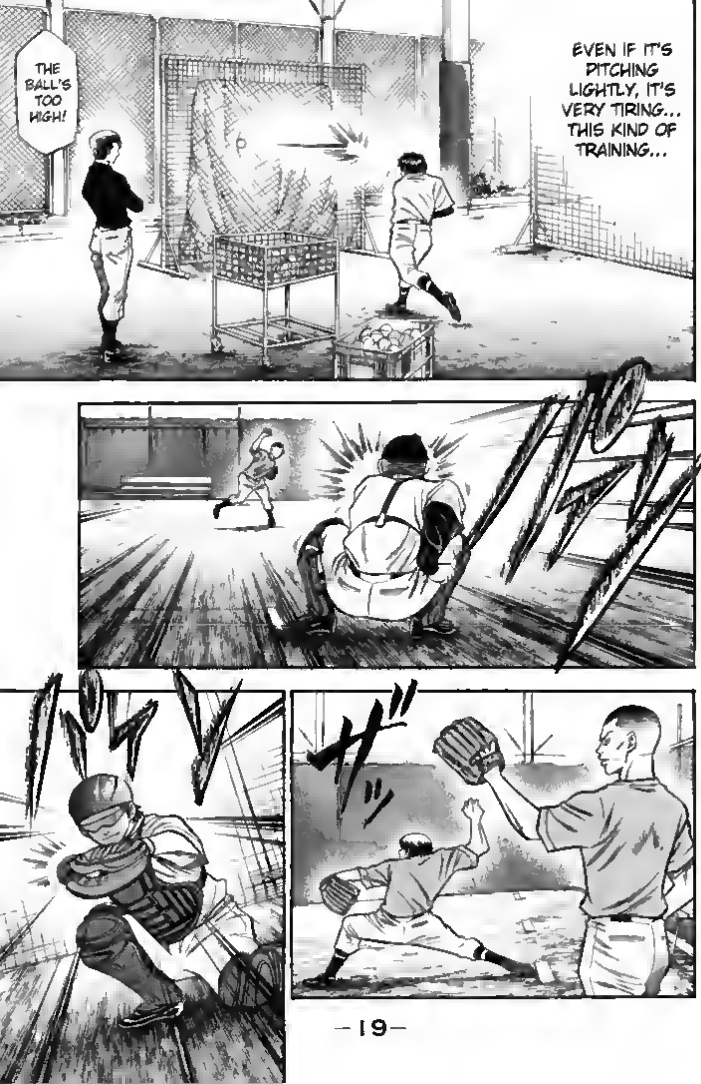
DO YOU WANT ME TO SUB YOU?
SHOUT OUT YOUR VOICE!
SHOW SOME SPIRIT!
Damn...
IF YOU'RE FINE, THEN DON'T SHOW YOUR FATIGUE ON YOUR FACE! STUPID
I'M... PERFECTLY FINE ..
'KAY..

HEY! FURUYA, YOU HAVE TO USE THE POWER FROM YOUR HIPS TO HIT!
SINCE JUST NOW THE BALL HASN'T BEEN FLYING OVER!

I REALLY WANT TO GO UP THE MOUND...

YE... YES...
YOU AREN'T LIFTING YOUR LEG!
DIDN'T YOU LIFT IT UP VERY HIGH PREVIOUSLY?!

I'VE BEEN PRACTICING BASE RUNNING CONTINUOUSLY FOR A FEW DAYS. MY LEGS ARE ALREADY...
DAMN IT...

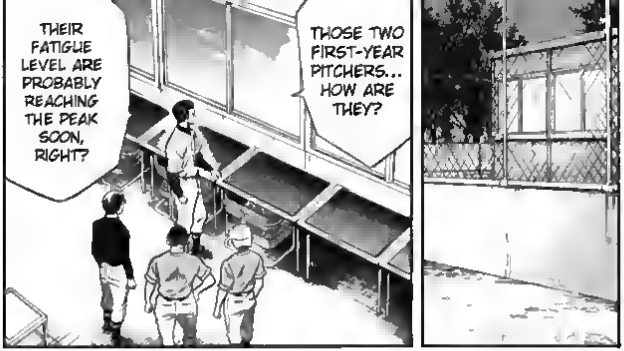

THE BALL'S TOO HIGH!
EVEN IF IT'S PITCHING LIGHTLY, IT'S VERY TIRING... THIS KIND OF TRAINING...
ザ

THOSE PEOPLE ARE STILL PITCHING ENERGETICALLY... DAMN...

WHY CAN'T I ENTER THE BULLPEN AND PITCH?

ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!
ONE... TWO... THREE... FOUR...

YES!
TOMORROW'S PRACTICE WILL ALSO START FROM THE MORNING.
AFTER PACKING UP, YOU SHOULD RETURN HOME.
!!
WHY ARE THOSE PEOPLE STILL ABLE TO STAND UP?
!!
CAN'T MOVE...
I'M DEAD TIRED MY BODY..
THOSE PEOPLE ARE MONSTERS ...


THEIR FATIGUE LEVEL ARE PROBABLY REACHING THE PEAK SOON, RIGHT?
THOSE TWO FIRST-YEAR PITCHERS... HOW ARE THEY?

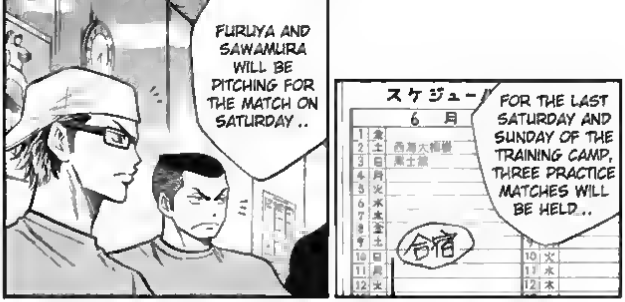
IT'S ALMOST TIME TO SLOW DOWN THE PACE AND LET THEM ENTER THE BULLPEN, OR TO DO PITCHING PRACTICE...
Hm??
YES! AS PER YOUR INSTRUCTIONS, BEFORE THEY GET USED TO THE TRAINING CAMP, THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PITCH.

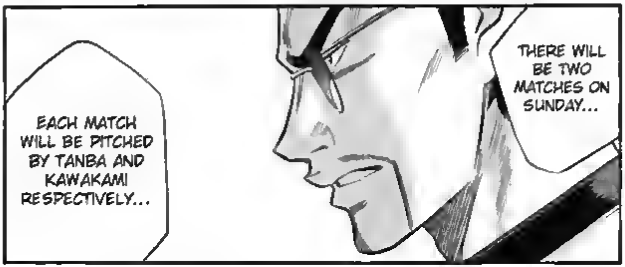
WE'LL ALSO BE PRACTICING "THAT" TODAY
GOT IT!

THE ROAD AHEAD IS STILL LONG, DON'T TRAIN THEM TOO HARD!
YES!

WHAT ABOUT TANBA AND KAWAKAMI?
OKAY.

ズイッ
IN GOOD CONDITION!


FURUYA AND SAWAMURA WILL BE PITCHING FOR THE MATCH ON SATURDAY..
スケジュー
6 月
FOR THE LAST SATURDAY AND SUNDAY OF THE TRAINING CAMP, THREE PRACTICE MATCHES WILL BE HELD...


THERE WILL BE TWO MATCHES ON SUNDAY...
EACH MATCH WILL BE PITCHED BY TANBA AND KAWAKAMI RESPECTIVELY...

I JUST WISH TO SEE WHETHER THE PLAYERS WOULD HAVE THE SPIRIT TO FIGHT ON EVEN WHEN THEY'RE EXTREMELY TIRED.
JUST WISH TO SEE WHETHER THEY HAVE THE FIGHTING SPIRIT..

FOR THESE THREE MATCHES, I DON'T MIND WHETHER WE WIN OR LOSE..

コポッ
コポ
HEY, YOU TWO! DON'T SLEEP! YOU'LL DIE IF YOU SLEEP HERE!
AND MINAMI WAS THERE THE TIME TO YOU RESCUE ME JUST NOW!!
WOAH!!
TH-THAT WAS DANGEROUS ALMOST DROWNED MYSELF THERE.

CHAPTER 42 EGOIST

4th
DAY OF
TRAINING
NICE
PITCH!
OK!

NOT REALLY. THE BALL YOU PITCHED JUST NOW IT WOULD BE HARD FOR THE BATTER TO SWING AT IT!

EVEN THOUGH I'VE JUST BEEN PRAISED BY YOU, IT FEELS WEIRD!
YOU MUST BE PLOTTING SOME-THING!
KENJI KAWAKAMI
(SECOND-YEAR)

SINCE YOU'RE A PITCHER WITH SIDEARM DELIVERY..
WE REALLY HAVE TO MAKE USE OF THE BALL PLACEMENTS...

YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR PITCHING!
WITH SUCH GOOD CONTROL,

HEH!

HIS PITCHING IS ALSO QUITE GOOD TODAY..
HE'S ALREADY TIRED! SO THE BALL JUST NOW WAS PROBABLY SO-SO...
HMPH
HOWEVER... I CAN FEEL HIS SPIRIT BEHIND EACH BALL HE PITCHES!

IN FACT, I'LL BE PULLING YOU DOWN FROM YOUR STARTING POSITION SOON...
ソフ
WE HAVE NO MORE ALTERNATIVES!
...
CONCENTRATE!
ゴゴ
HEY! DON'T GLANCE AROUND!
YEAH, I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE
じ
QUICK, PASS TO SECOND! YOU CAN STILL MAKE IT!
DAMN.., I REALLY WANT TO PITCH SOON...
ダッ

HYAHH!

WHAT?
WOAH...

JUST NOW .. WHAT HAPPENED... UNCONCIOUSLY, I..
EH?
EH?

NICE DEFENSE!
THE MOVE-MENTS FROM JUST NOW WERE PERFECT!
SEE, IF YOU'RE SERIOUS YOU CAN DO IT!

IT'S SO HARD TO CATCH ...
YEAH, WHEN THE BALL WAS PASSED INTO THE MITT IT WAS STILL SPINNING

IT WOULD BE BEST IF THAT WASN'T JUST A FLUKE...
SO HE FINALLY MANAGED TO LEARN THAT THE MOVEMENTS OF THE BODY MUST BE FASTER THAN THE TURNING OF THE HEAD...

I CAN'T ADMIT DEFEAT
YOU HAVE TO TAKE NOTE OF THE MOVE-MENT OF THE BALL!

I'M ALMOST AT MY LIMIT...
SO TIRING..

THE FIRST-YEARS WILL HAVE TO BE CARRIED BACK..

ドカッ

!
THE PITCH YOU'VE BEEN PRACTICING SECRETLY RECENTLY...
IS THE FORK-BALL, RIGHT?

BUT ...
I THINK IT'S VERY GOOD.
YOUR HEIGHT, TOGETHER WITH THE FORKBALL, WOULD PROBABLY BECOME A VERY EFFECTIVE WEAPON...
NO MATTER HOW AMAZING THE BREAKING BALL YOU'VE LEARNT IS...
IT MUST BE MIXED IN WITH FASTBALLS TO EMPHASIZE THE POWER OF THE BREAKING BALL...
PLEASE DON'T FORGET THAT...

TO BE ABLE TO TALK LIKE THAT TO A SENIOR..
CHE.

THAT'S PROBABLY THE REASON WHY, WHEN CHRIS WAS INJURED HE BECAME THE STARTING CATCHER AS JUST A FIRST YEAR.
FORGET IT.. THIS GUY ORIGINALLY HAD SUCH A DARING PERSONALITY ANYWAY.

TO BE HONEST... THIS IS THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT I CAN'T REALLY GET ALONG WITH..
YOU CAN THINK AS YOU MAY REGARDING MY PITCHES...

I ONLY BELIEVE IN MYSELF WHEN I PITCH!
BUT...
IT SEEMS LIKE PITCHERS ARE ALL GUYS WITH BIG EGOS.
AFTER TAKING THE POSITION OF A PITCHER, HE NO LONGER WANTS TO GIVE UP THE MOUND TO OTHERS...
HMM
.....

IS THE JOY TO BEING A CATCHER! ♡
BUT... TO BE ABLE TO LEAD THESE PITCHERS...
YOU'RE SO IRRITATING.. IT'S PRECISELY BECAUSE I GOT REJECTED!
THEN... I'LL BE FIRST
WHY? YOU COULD JUST ASK CHRIS-SENPAI TO CATCH FOR YOU..
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE BATHING?
WHAT ARE THE TWO OF YOU DOING?
CANCER
ME FIRST!
DON'T PRETEND THAT YOU DIDN'T SEE IT!
HUH?

BECAUSE I WAS RE-JECTED BY CHRIS-SENPAI... SO I HAD TO ASK YOU.
RECENTLY, I COULDN'T GO INTO THE BULLPEN.. SO I WANTED TO ASK SENPAI TO CATCH FOR ME...
WEREN'T THE TWO OF YOU DEAD TIRED AFTER THE BASE RUN-NING PRAC-TICE?
HUH? NOW?
THEN I'LL PITCH 20
WHAT!?
THEN I'LL BE PITCH-ING IS BALLS!
THEN I WANT TO PITCH TEN BALLS.
YOU WANT TO PITCH EVEN WHEN YOU ARE THAT TIRED?
I WANT TO! EVEN IF IT'S JUST ONE BALL I WANT TO PITCH!
HEY, HEY.. YOU AREN'T EVEN SEEING IF I AGREE...
HAHA

THOSE TWO ARE JUST COMPLETE EGOISTS...

HAHA HA- HA!
HOW INTER- EST- ING!

THE TWO OF YOU ARE JUST AWESOME!
흠

ARE WE PITCHING IN THE ROOM?
WHAT- EVER IT IS, JUST GO AND BATHE! QUICK!
HAHAHA
OKAY
青心寮

IF YOU ARE SO ENER- GETIC IT SHOULD NOT BE A PROB- LEM.
EH?
WELL THEN, COME TO MY ROOM AFTER YOU HAVE BATHED

PLEASE EXCUSE ME...
ガチャ
ピーン
HUH?
OH... SO YOU CAME!

SO SLOW!
QUICK, COME IN!
IT"
IT'S SO TROUBLE-SOME WHEN THEY GATHER IN MY ROOM EVERYDAY...
COME WAIT ON THESE GUYS!
THE TWO OF YOU STILL HAVE ENERGY LEFT, RIGHT?
MIYUKI... QUICK, MAKE YOUR MOVE!
LET'S COMPLETE THE MATCH FROM YESTERDAY...
FIRST-YEARS, COME, GIVE ME A MASSAGE!
OH, HEY!
AH.. HEY, YOU'RE SO SLY!!
DAMN...
SAWAMU-RA! I WANT JUICE!

I'VE DONE IT WITH MY GRAMPA BEFORE SO I KNOW A BIT...
I have no idea.
DO THE TWO OF YOU KNOW HOW TO PLAY SHOGI?

TETSU-SAN, JUST LET ME OFF! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO WIN...
I'M TOO WEAK
BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN ASK..

EH? BUT WHAT ABOUT THE PITCHING PRACTICE?
GOOD! SAWAMURA, YOU GO!

ペコリン
YORO-SHIKU ONEIGAI SHIMASU.
YE.. YES!
(OH NO... I COULDN'T REFUSE...)

THEN I HAVE TO GIVE A MASSAGE TO JUN...
AAH?

TETSU-SAN AND NAKADA COMES TO MY ROOM EVERY-DAY...
CANCER
SO DURING THE TRAIN-ING CAMP, I HAVE TO PLAY SHOGI WITH HIM EVERY NIGHT.

WHILE KURA-MOCHI AND NAKADA PLAY VIDEO GAMES TOGETHER...
DAMN
AND WHY IS MASUKO SLEEP-ING ON MY BED!

LETTING YOU GUYS KNOW WHO EXACTLY ARE THE PEOPLE THAT DEFEND FOR YOU WHEN YOU PITCH IS NOT SUCH A BAD THING, ISN'T IT?
BUT ...
GANGER
10

S... SO... IT'S BECAUSE HE WANTED TO LET US KNOW MORE ABOUT THESE PEOPLE, THAT HE...
WELL THEN
GANGER

I'LL BE GOING TO SLEEP IN ANOTHER ROOM!
EH?
I'LL LEAVE THE REST UP TO YOU GUYS!
WELL THEN...

WAIT!
青心寮
バタン

T...THAT JERK...HOW COULD HE JUST RUN AWAY LIKE THAT...
After throwing these guys to me...
SAWAMURA! QUICK! GO AND BUY SOME JUICE!
AND BIG-CUITS WHILE YOU ARE AT IT!
I've got it!
HMM
Pak!

WHAT'S WRONG? QUICK MAKE YOUR MOVE!
WE'LL HAVE TO WORK UP EARLY TOMORROW!

OKAY THEN... FURUYA, COME HERE!
MASSAGE MY FEET FOR ME!

THEY ARE ALL EGOISTS...
SEEMS LIKE I CAN HAVE A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP TODAY...
GÄNGER
His own pillow

SORRY IT'S CARELESSNESS ON MY PART...
WHAT CARELESSNESS?!
HEY.. YOU..
BE GENTLER!

THAT HURTS!

SHE'S JUST ONE OF MY CHILDHOOD FRIENDS!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING!

HEY, YOU!
BY THE WAY.. DO YOU KNOW? THIS GUY, BACK AT HIS HOMETOWN, HAS A GIRLFRIEND..

MORE DETAILS ...
大矛
OH REALLY.. I REALLY WANT MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THAT...

LIKE I'VE SAID! SHE'S NOT MY GIRLFRIEND! I DIDN'T REPLY TO ALL HER MESSAGES ANYWAY...
WHAT?
青心寮
DON'T WORRY! I'VE BEEN REPLYING TO THEM ON YOUR BEHALF!
AS I'VE EXPECTED, IT WAS YOU!
HOW DARE YOU SHOW DISRESPECT TO YOUR SENIOR! TAKE MY KICK!
WHY DO YOU LOOK SO HAPPY?!
AH... THE CAPTAIN WANTS OOLONG TEA
Sigh.
HOW I WISH I CAN GO BACK TO SLEEP
IN THE MIDST OF BUYING STUFF

FURUYA!
SAWAMURA!
DIAMOND no A Ace

YOU'LL BE GOING INTO THE BULLPEN IN THE AFTERNOON..
PREPARE YOURSELVES!

I WONDER WHO'S GOING TO CATCH FOR US?
COULD IT BE CHRIS-SENPAI?
EH?
EVEN THOUGH THE TWO OF YOU SEEM ABOUT TO COLLAPSE FROM FATIGUE.
ISN'T THAT GOOD?

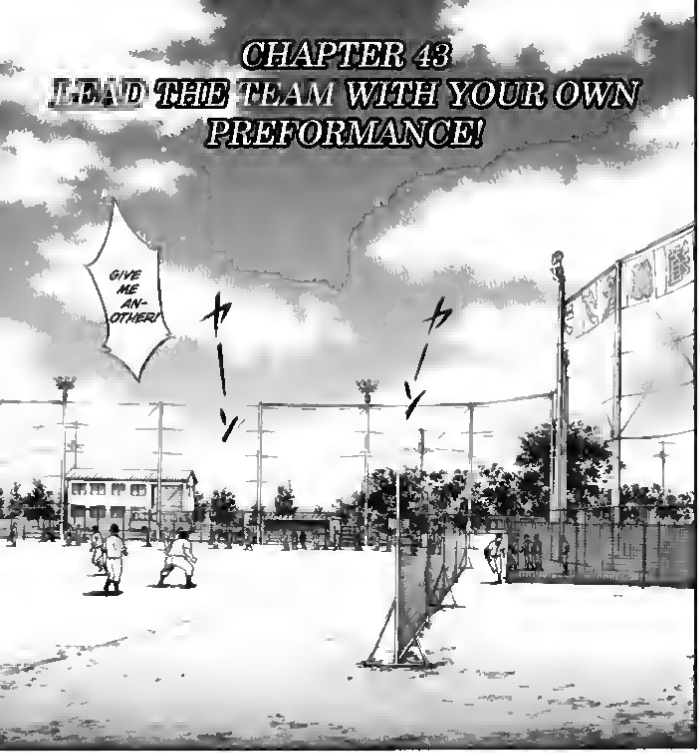
HMPH!
IT'S ME!

MIYAUCHI VOLUNTEERED TO BE YOUR CATCHER.
BEING A CATCHER OF THE FIRST-STRING THIS IS TO BE EXPECTED.

GOT A PROBLEM WITH IT?
!
N..NO..

IT CAN BE SAID THAT THE FIGHTING SPIRIT HE POSSESSES IS A FEW TIMES THAT OF A NORMAL PERSON..
IF HE'S CARELESS, EVEN MIYUKI MIGHT BE IN DANGER.

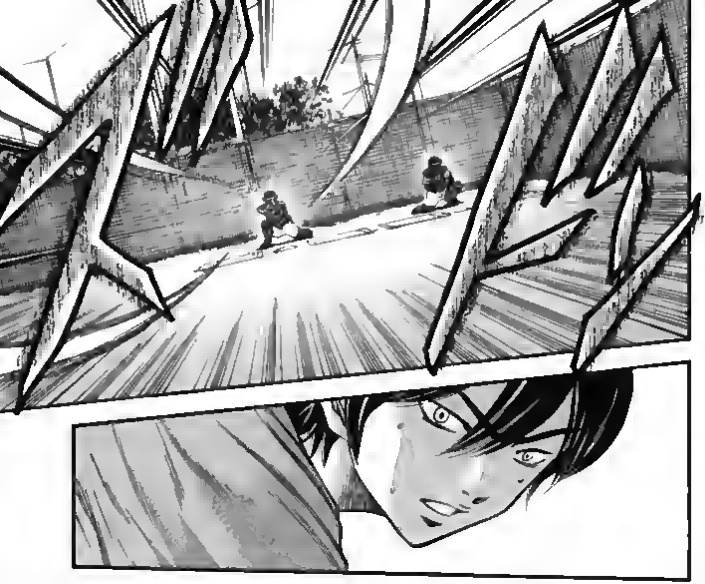
CHAPTER 43
LEAD THE TEAM WITH YOUR OWN PREFORMANCE!



HARUICHI... IF YOU REST THERE, YOU'LL OBSTRUCT EVERYONE
HYA HH!
COME!
ONE MORE!
COME!
. YEAH . . MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE MOST OF THEM WERE IN THE DUGOUT WHEN THEY WERE ONLY A STEP AWAY FROM KOUSHIEN... THE REGRET THEY FELT..
AS EXPECTED OF THE THIRD-YEARS, THEIR VOICE IS STILL SO LOUD...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S ALREADY THE 8TH DAY OF TRAINING CAMP
H!!
...

I'LL DO THE HIT-TING!
SUB-STITU-TION!

FIRST-YEAR KOMINATO... GO ASIDE AND TAKE A BREAK!
THE REST OF YOU, ARE YOU RE-SOLVED?
HEH...
IT'S PROBABLY TO PRE-VENT YOU FROM GETTING INJURED.
4:00 PM
THE FIELDING PRACTICE THAT THE COACH PER-SONALLY ATTENDED TO...
I'LL BE HITTING A LOT OVER!



MIYAUCHI CAN EVEN CATCH THE 150KM PITCHES FROM PITCHING MACHINES EASILY!
WHAT'S WITH THAT SHOCKED FACE?

DAMN IT... I'M SO TIRED THAT I CAN'T EVEN PITCH FAST...
SO DON'T HOLD YOURSELF BACK. PITCH TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT!
YES

SAWAMURA! IT'S YOUR TURN! THE TWO OF YOU WILL TAKE TURNS TO PITCH!
YES!

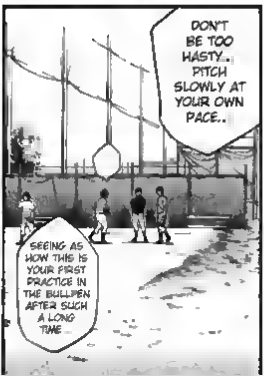
I GUESS I'LL JUST PITCH LIKE WHEN I WAS PRACTICING WITH THE NET AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

UHGH...

H...HOW COULD THAT BE...
IS CATCHING FROM THE FRONT THAT DIFFICULT?
YOU PITCHED TOO HIGH

CAN I PITCH TO MY HEART'S CONTENT?
DAMN IT... I CAN'T PITCH AS SMOOTHLY AS THE TIME DURING PRACTICES...

LIKE I'VE JUST SAID, DON'T BE TOO HASTY..
WHEN IT'S MY TURN, CAN I PITCH WITH EVERYTHING I HAVE?


DON'T BE TOO HASTY.. PITCH SLOWLY AT YOUR OWN PACE..
SEEING AS HOW THIS IS YOUR FIRST PRACTICE IN THE BULLPEN AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME...

I REALLY CAN'T STAND THESE TWO...

FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW, YOU'LL BE ALLOWED TO PRACTICE PITCHING IN THE BULLPEN, TOGETHER WITH FIELDING PRACTICE TO CONDITION YOURSELVES...
FOR SATURDAY'S MATCH, THE TWO OF YOU WILL BE PITCHING THE ENTIRE MATCH.

R... REALLY?!
WHO WILL BE THE STARTING PITCHER?
WOOOHO OOO! WE CAN PITCH IN A MATCH!
AREN'T THE TWO OF YOU ENERGETIC! WANT TO GO FOR ANOTHER RUN?

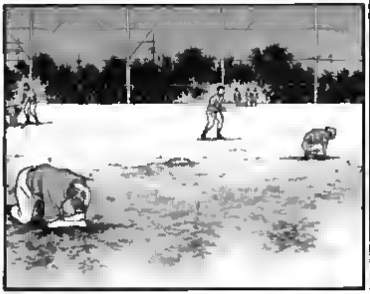
A M...

A MATCH?

URGH!

WHAT'S WRONG?! WHERE HAVE ALL YOUR VOICES GONE?!
HEY... GO AND SWITCH ON THE LIGHTS...
カーン
THIS PRACTICE WILL CONTINUE...

G... GIVE ME ANOTHER!
I CAN'T HEAR YOUR VOICE AT ALL! ISASHIKI... WHAT HAPPENED TO ALL YOUR USUAL PROWESS?!
G GIVE ME ANOTHER.
I'VE NEVER TAUGHT YOU TO CATCH LIKE THAT!
WOAH!
!
JUST COACH'S BATTING ALONE CAN ACTUALLY HANDLE EVERYONE'S FIELDING PRACTICE. IS COACH A MONSTER...?
SO SCARY... HOW LONG EXACTLY WILL THIS PRACTICE CONTINUE...
EVEN IF THEY'RE THE SENPAIS, THEY ARE PROBABLY TIRED ALREADY...
KOMINATO! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE USUAL SMILE?!



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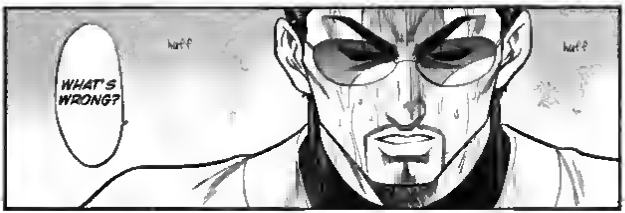
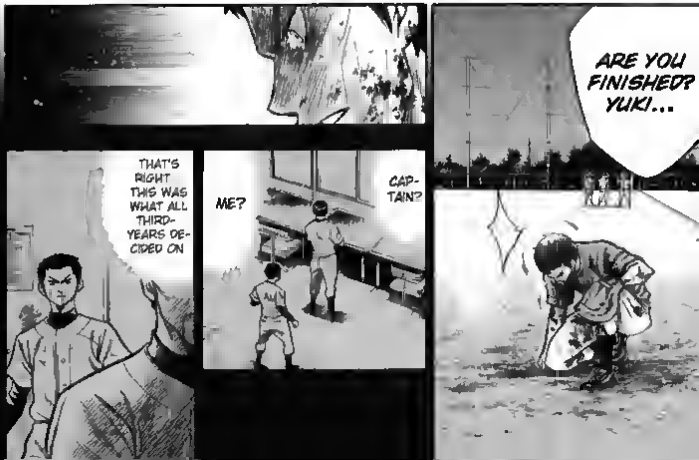

WHAT'S WRONG?
huff
huff


ARE YOU FINISHED? YUKI...
CAP-TAIN?
ME?
THAT'S RIGHT THIS WAS WHAT ALL THIRD-YEARS DE-CIDED ON

YOU JUST NEED TO LEAD EVERYONE WITH YOUR PERFORMANCE!
I DON'T NEED YOU TO HANDLE EVERYTHING IN THIS HUGE TEAM PERFECTLY...
MY PERFORMANCE...
HUFF
HUFF
THE BALL...

PLEASE HIT AN-OTHER OVER...
COACH ...

AAH
AAA AAA AAA AH!
H.. HERE TOO..
HUFF ..
C...COME ...
COOL
...
SO AWE-SOME ...
YES!
OKAY! LAST BALL!
KEEP YOUR-SELVES FOCUSED TILL THE END!

THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW... IT'LL BE THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPORTING ME FROM BEHIND WITH THEIR FIELDING...

"ドクン

RUBBISH! YOU CAN'T DO IT WITH YOUR LOW STAMINA! DON'T TALK SO MUCH!
DON'T WORRY. I'LL DO THE PITCHING FOR THE WHOLE MATCH!
WAAH . CAN I REALLY MAKE IT?
I DEFINITELY CAN'T MESS UP ON THAT DAY!
CHE!

CHAPTER 44
TRIAL PRACTICE
S
青道

YES!
BOW TOWARDS THE FIELD!

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

OH YEAH..
. . .

THIS TRAINING CAMP WAS REALLY DEAD TIRING .. ALL THAT'S LEFT NOW ARE THE PRACTICE MATCHES.
I... IT'S OVER..

I'M TALKING ABOUT THE PITCHES YOU'LL BE ASKING FOR TOMORROW
FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULDN'T WE BE DISCUSSING HOW I SHOULD PITCH TOMORROW? OR THE THINGS I SHOULD TAKE NOTE OF OR SOMETHING...?
I AGREE!
EH? YOU'RE TALKING TO ME?
ゴオ オォォ
YOU... WHEN EXACTLY WILL YOU BE CATCHING FOR ME?!
IT'S THE PRACTICE MATCH TOMORROW ALREADY!

WHAT'S THERE TO DISCUSS FOR PITCHERS WHO DON'T HAVE ANY BREAKING BALLS?
WHAT ARE THE TWO OF YOU TALKING ABOUT?
REALLY SHOCKED

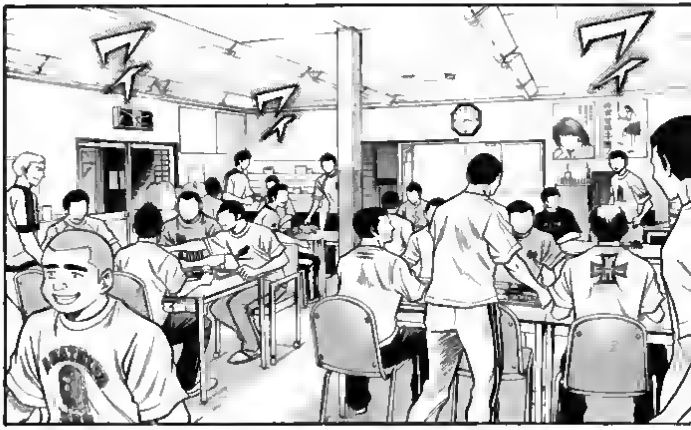
IT'S ALSO A FORM OF TRAINING WHEN THE OPPONENTS SCORE FROM YOUR PITCHES ANYWAY! WAHAHAHA!
YOU ARE PROBABLY TIRED FROM THE TRAINING CAMP ANYWAY! YOU CAN JUST LET THEM SCORE LIKE CRAZY!

スパァン

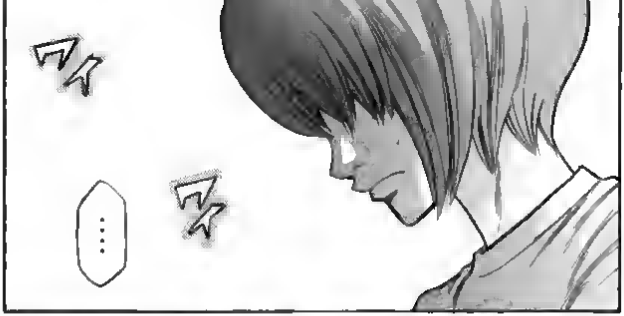
THAT REALLY IRRITATES ME!
FROM WHAT HE SAID JUST NOW, IT'S AS IF MY PITCHING IS NOT ACCEPTABLE...
A BREAKING BALL...
DON'T MESS AROUND! IS THIS WHAT A CATCHER SHOULD BE SAYING?!
HEY, I'M STILL YOUR SENPAI YOU KNOW...
YOU STILL HAVE LOTS TO LEARN FROM CHRIS-SENPAI!
YOUR FINGERNAIL... YOU MUST TAKE CARE OF IT.
HEY... FURUYA, HERE, YOU CAN USE THIS.
YOU'LL HAVE TO PUT IN MORE EFFORT AND MASTER YOUR CONTROL...
OTHER SCHOOLS WILL BE ABLE TO SEE-THROUGH YOUR PITCHES SO YOU HAVE TO LURE BATTERS TO SWING AT YOUR HIGH BALLS. IF NOT, THEY WILL BE USELESS.
THIS IS... A FAKE NAIL?
WITHOUT EVEN ONE BREAKING BALL, YOU MANAGED TO HOLD UP UNTIL NOW... BUT THE WORLD OF BASEBALL WON'T BE SO EASY FROM HERE ON OUT.

IF YOU HAVE TIME, YOU CAN TRY PLACING THE BALL BETWEEN TWO FINGERS...
AND ANYWAY THERE ARE PITCHES THAT DON'T CAUSE HARM TO YOUR NAILS
PREVIOUSLY, THERE WAS A SUPER STRONG PITCHER WHO PRACTICED LIFTING A ONE LITER WINE BOTTLE WITH IT BETWEEN TWO FINGERS
!
MONSTER ROOKIE!
PLEASE LET ME ENJOY BASEBALL MORE...
IF YOU ARE ABLE TO LEARN AT LEAST ONE TYPE OF BREAKING BALL YOUR FASTBALL CAN BE USED EVEN MORE EFFECTIVELY
EVEN IF THE FORKBALL WOULD INCREASE THE BURDEN ON YOUR ELBOW IT'S NOT PROBLEMATIC SINCE I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO PITCH TOO MANY FORKBALLS ANYWAY
(...)

This is painful
THERE'S SOMEONE HERE WHO HAS BEEN COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN



ぷる ぷる
This is given by Chris sensei for you to eat.
This.
KING


...

COACH
PLEASE HIT ANOTHER OVER.
FIRST-YEAR KOMINATO... GO ASIDE AND TAKE A BREAK!
HEH. . IT'S PROBABLY TO PREVENT YOU FROM GETTING INJURED

SNORE
MM...
!
カッ
I WASN'T REALLY ABLE TO SLEEP...
AH... YES...
"EH?
COME AND TAKE A LOOK AT MY BATTING POSTURE!
I'VE GOT THE FEELING THAT I'M SWINGING TOO HIGH WHENEVER I BAT...
HEY, KOMINATO
ARE YOU STILL AWAKE?

PEOPLE WITH NO TALENT, HAVE TO MAKE UP FOR IT WITH EFFORT!
BATTING PRACTICE? AT THIS TIME?
OF COURSE! HOW COULD PRACTICE BE ENOUGH FOR US WHEN WE JUST HELP YOU GUYS PRACTICE?
...
QUICK, PREPARE TO GO OUT!
I'M NOT GOING TO ACCEPT BEING BURIED LIKE THIS FOR-EVER!
MY AMBITION IS LARGER THAN THE UNIVERSE!

THERE ARE MANY OTHERS WHO WANT TO REPLACE YOU!
IS NOT AS SIMPLE AS YOU'VE IMAGINED
THIS PLACE...
NICE
FORGET IT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO COME THEN.
WHAT'S WRONG, STILL FEEL LIKE SLEEPING?
WHAT?
CAN I PRACTICE MY BATTING TOO?
I...
.....

YOU IDIOT... YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK ANY HARDER!
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME
THAT'S WHY I JUST SAID YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORK ANY HARDER!
DAMN IT... I JUST DID SOMETHING UNNECESSARY...
YOU JUST HAVE TO TAKE A LOOK AT MY BATTING POSTURE!
ANY WAY YOU ... YOU HAVE THAT PRACTICE MATCH TOMORROW RIGHT?!
IT'S NOT LIKE I'LL BE TAKING PART IN IT
IDIOT DON'T BE SO PESSIMISTIC
...

SAT-
UR-
DAY
SEIDOU
BASEBALL
FIELD

I THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE EFFORT TO COME HERE TODAY..
SUMMER'S NEARING TOO, LET'S HAVE A GOOD GAME!
HEHE ...
A GOOD GAME?
OSAKA KIRYU HIGH COACH TAKAHIRO MATSUMOTO
IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A GOOD GAME, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO HAVE FIRST-YEARS...
AS START-ERS?
EVEN THOUGH I DO UNDERSTAND THAT POSITIONS IN THE TEAM WILL INEVITABLY BE EX-PERIMENTED ON TO FIND THE BEST LINE-UP BEFORE SUMMER AR-RIVES.
BUT I NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT WE, KIRYU HIGH, HAVE TO FACE FIRST-YEARS AS OUR OPPO-NENTS...
CAN I ASSUME THAT YOUR FIRST-YEARS ARE PITCHERS WITH UNLIMITED POTENTIAL BEFORE THEM?

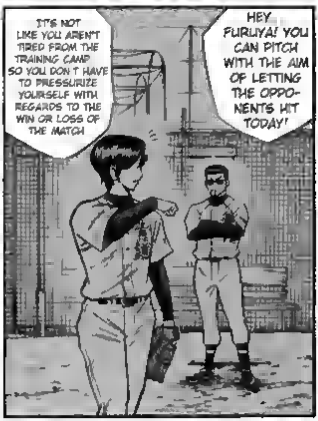
OR COULD IT BE... THESE TWO ARE SECRET WEAPONS THAT YOU DON'T WANT OPPONENTS IN THE SAME PREFECTURE TO KNOW ABOUT?
HEHE.. WELL, WHATEVER THE CASE...
WE WILL DO OUR BEST AND ENJOY THE MATCH..
ニヨッ
BOW!
YORO-SHIKU ONEI-GAI SHI-MASU!

PLAYER NUMBER 3
CENTER FIELDER
ISAGHIKI
(THIRD-YEAR)
PLAYER NUMBER 2
SECOND BASEMAN
KOMINATO
(THIRD-YEAR)
PLAYER NUMBER
SHORTSTOP
KURAMOCHI
(SECOND-YEAR)
PLAYER NUMBER 5
THIRD BASEMAN
MASUKO
(THIRD-YEAR)
PLAYER NUMBER 4
FIRST BASEMAN
YUKI
(THIRD-YEAR)
PLAYER NUMBER 7
RIGHT FIELDER
SHIRASU
(SECOND-YEAR)
PLAYER NUMBER 8
LEFT FIELDER
SAKAI
(THIRD-YEAR)
Damn it
Hmph.
PLAYER NUMBER 6
CATCHER
MIYUKI
(SECOND-YEAR)

PLAYER NUMBER 9
PITCHER
FURUYA
(FIRST-YEAR)

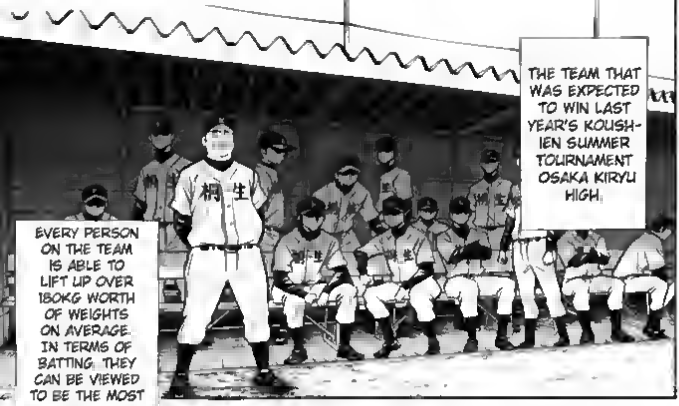
WHAT IS THE COACH TALKING ABOUT?
LET THE OPPONENTS HIT?

IT'S ALREADY BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE I LAST PITCHED FROM THE MOUND...
GO TO THE SECOND STRING'S FIELD AND DO RUNNING PRACTICE
FOR THESE TWO WEEKS YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO PITCH


IT'S NOT LIKE YOU AREN'T TIRED FROM THE TRAINING CAMP SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRESSURIZE YOURSELF WITH REGARDS TO THE WIN OR LOSS OF THE MATCH
HEY FURUYA! YOU CAN PITCH WITH THE AIM OF LETTING THE OPPONENTS HIT TODAY!

PLAY!
I WON'T LET ANYONE HIT MY PITCH!

COME ...
EVEN IF THE OPPONENTS SCORE LIKE CRAZY, DON'T WORRY, THERE'S STILL ME!
WHAT IS IT? STARTING TO FEEL SCARED?
OH RIGHT HOW ABOUT YOU STEP DOWN NOW AND LET ME PITCH?
Hey
OF COURSE I'M NOT FEELING SCARED
AND I ALSO DON'T WANT TO STEP DOWN FROM THE MOUND!


THE TEAM THAT WAS EXPECTED TO WIN LAST YEAR'S KOUSHIEN SUMMER TOURNAMENT OSAKA KIRYU HIGH.
EVERY PERSON ON THE TEAM IS ABLE TO LIFT UP OVER 180KG WORTH OF WEIGHTS ON AVERAGE. IN TERMS OF BATTING, THEY CAN BE VIEWED TO BE THE MOST POWERFUL IN THE NATION

FOR FURUYA ...

THE FATIGUE FROM THE TRAINING CAMP...

TOGETHER WITH ONLY ONE TYPE OF PITCH, THE FASTBALL...

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE'S EXPERIENCED THE STRICTNESS OF HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL.
AA!!
!

S
B
O
2
ぴくっ
んごっ
DIAMOND no A Act2

THAT PITCHER IS NOT IN TOP CONDITION TODAY..
WOAH... IT'S A BASE ON BALLS AGAIN..

BALL!

AND NONE OF THE HITTERS ARE SWINGING AT HIS BALLS THAT TEND TO GO HIGH...
THEY'VE ALREADY LOST THREE POINTS..

COULD IT BE THAT HIS PITCHES ARE BEING READ BY THE OPPONENT?
THAT SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE, SINCE KIRYU IS FROM OSAKA...

DAMN IT... MY PITCHES AREN'T FAST AT ALL...
青道
CHAPTER 45
SECRET WEAPON

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT GUY DOING...
S

HOW IS HE, THAT FIRST-YEAR PITCHER?
YES. THE SPEED IS ABOVE AVERAGE, BUT IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO HIT IT.
AND THERE'S AN APPARENT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS STRIKES AND HIS BALLS, SO IT'S EASY TO SEE WHICH IS COMING.
IF I'M NOT WRONG... THEIR TRAINING CAMP JUST ENDED...
YES!
EVEN THOUGH IT'S THE OPPONENT THAT IS NOT IN A GOOD CONDITION, YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD YOURSELF BACK!
LET'S SCORE UNTIL THEY BREAK!
IF YOUR SECRET WEAPON BREAKS DOWN FROM ALL OUR HITS..
KATOAKA.. IT WON'T BE MY PROBLEM...

FURUYA WILL PITCH A COMPLETE 5 INNINGS
C... COACH!
EVEN THOUGH I KNOW THAT HE'S EXHAUSTED I DIDN'T THINK THAT HIS CONDITION WOULD BE SO BAD...
SHOULDN'T WE CHANGE THE PITCHER SO AS TO NOT LET HIM LOSE THE CONFIDENCE TO PITCH IN OTHER MATCHES?
Hmph!
...
I WANT TO MAKE USE OF THE SPEED OF FURUYA'S FASTBALL TO HOLD DOWN THE OPPONENTS.
FOR TOMORROW'S GAME... HAVE YOU DECIDED ON THE PITCHER TO CALL FORTH FOR THE TWO FIRST-YEARS?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MIYUKI?
HMM ...

HE'LL BE EXTREMELY EXHAUSTED TOMORROW, THE OPPONENTS WILL PROBABLY GETS LOTS OF HITS OFF HIM ANYWAY!
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO DECIDE ON THE PITCHES FOR FURUYA...
THAT'S BECAUSE IN FURUYA'S MIND RIGHT NOW, THERE'S NO MIX OF PITCHES THAT HE WANTS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
What?
Demon
Hmm
YOU'LL BE THE CATCHER WHEN FURUYA IS UP!
MIYUKI TOMORROW...
SO WE SHOULD TAKE THIS CHANCE, WHERE HE CAN'T RELY ON THE SPEED OF HIS PITCHES, TO LET HIM KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS CONTROL!

IT'LL BE A TOUGH MATCH. WILL YOU GUYS PUT IN YOUR BEST EFFORT?
THE OPPONENT IS OSAKA KIRYU HIGH...
YES!
WOAH... THE BALL FELL IN FRONT OF THE PITCHER..
KIRYU'S HITTING IS UNSTOP-PABLE...

RYOU!!
HE-
HE-
HE-
HE!

TH... THEY ARE STOPPED!
A DOUBLE PLAY DUE TO THE FIELDERS AT THE CENTER-FIELD!
THAT BALL COULD ACTUALLY BE CAUGHT?!
NICE CATCH, RYOU!
Amazing...
THOSE TWO'S FIELDING SKILLS ARE REALLY AMAZING
I... IT FLEW?!
KURAMOCHI-SENPAI, YOU ACTUALLY KNOW HOW TO FIELD BESIDES PLAYING VIDEO GAMES HUH?
EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY EXHAUSTED, WHY CAN THEY STILL MOVE AROUND SO FAST?
THAT HURTS!
EVERY-ONE'S HURTING ANYWAY
HAHA HA-HA!
THE FIELDERS BEHIND YOU JUST SAVED YOU!

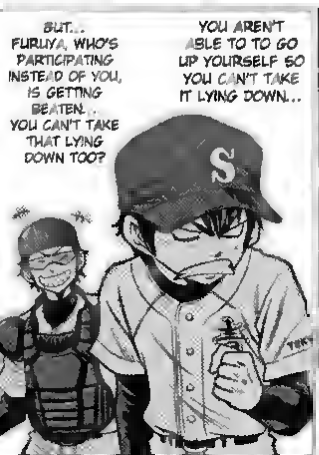
BASED ON YOUR CONDITION TODAY, IT'S ALREADY VERY GOOD IF YOU MANAGE TO KEEP THEM BELOW TEN POINTS...

WOAH, THERE'S A KILLING INTENT!
HEHE.. THAT GUY ACTUALLY DIDN'T GET ANGRY ON THE MOUND...
I WON'T LET THEM GAIN EVEN ONE POINT ANY-MORE...

THE ACTUAL TEST WILL START FROM NOW....
I CAN'T STAND THIS..
...BUT... THE MORE STRENGTH YOU EXERT, THE LESS SPEED YOUR PITCH WILL HAVE...
TOKYO

NGH
ギュー
WHAT ARE YOU SMILING FOR DURING A MATCH!
PUT MORE EFFORT INTO THE GAME-CALLING! CAN'T YOU BE MORE LIKE CHRIS-SENPAI?!

HEHEHE... WHO KNOWS HOW LONG IT WILL BE UNTIL HE'S MORE HONEST WITH HIS FEELINGS...
DOU!


BUT... FURUYA, WHO'S PARTICIPATING INSTEAD OF YOU, IS GETTING BEATEN... YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT LYING DOWN TOO?
YOU AREN'T ABLE TO TO GO UP YOURSELF SO YOU CAN'T TAKE IT LYING DOWN...
S
TOKYO

AH.. YOU'RE RIGHT!
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO JUST TOLD HIM TO GET OFF THE MOUND AND LET YOU GO UP?
AND ANYWAY, WHY ARE YOU THE ONE WHO'S PISSED OFF?

NEED A TOWEL?
HEY, WANT TO CHANGE WITH ME?
DON'T IGNORE ME!
THAT PROBABLY SHOWS THAT SAWAMURA ALSO ACCEPTS FURUYA'S ABILITIES...
ポン
ポン
WOAH. THAT GLARE OF HIS IS REALLY SCARY...
OSAKA KIRYU ACE PITCHER
TACHI HIROMI
(THIRD-YEAR)

HEH!
HE-HE-HE...
I'LL DEFINITELY HIT WHEN I SEE A GOOD ONE!
THIS PITCH WAS A HEAVY ONE!
DAMN IT... IT WAS OFF...
YEAH!
LET'S GET THE FIRST ONE OUT WITH THIS.

S
HE MANAGED TO RUN THERE ALREADY?
EH?
K
!
DAMN!

CHEH...
OUT!
OU...
DAMN IT... A HIT JUST FLEW AWAY LIKE THAT.
A DIRECT PASS FROM THIRD BASE TO FIRST BASE ALMOST COULDN'T GET HIM OUT
WHAT
THIS GUY'S RUNNING IS ALMOST TOO FAST TO BE REAL...

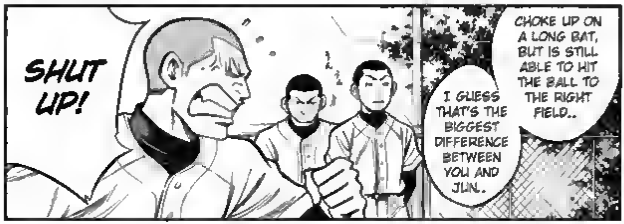
DAMN IT...
STILL NOT OUT YET...
FOUR BALLS!
BALL!
YOUR PITCHES ARE ACTUALLY QUITE POWERFUL!
S
K

HOW COULD I NOT TIRE THEIR PITCHER A BIT TOO...
ALL OF US ARE ALREADY SO TIRED THAT WE ALMOST CAN'T RUN ANYMORE...
HEY HEY... HOW MANY PITCHES WAS THAT BEFORE HE GOT THE BASE ON BALLS?
THIS GUY HELD ON FOR AROUND TEN PITCHES!
くわっ
WOAH!
HYAAAAAA!

BREAK THROUGH THE DEFENSE, DAMN IT!

ボテ ボテ
WOAH!

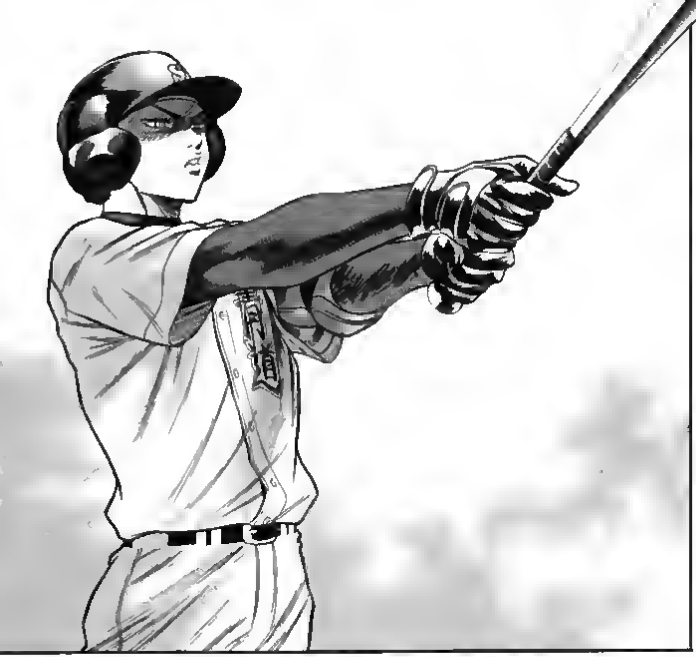
HEHE. WHAT A SACRIFICIAL HIT THAT WAS


SHUT UP!
I GUESS THAT'S THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU AND JUN..
CHOKE UP ON A LONG BAT, BUT IS STILL ABLE TO HIT THE BALL TO THE RIGHT FIELD..

THIS IS GOOD NEWS FOR US..
THIS PRACTICE MATCH WILL LET OUR PLAYERS RETURN WITH BOOSTED CONFIDENCE!

HEHE.. EVEN THOUGH SEIDOU HAS A LOT OF UNIQUE PLAYERS..
BUT THEY ALL SEEM TO BE EXTREMELY EXHAUSTED..

HEHE HE.



GREAT! THIS IS A GOOD CHANCE TO SCORE!
TETSU!
GET A HIT!

HMM.

IT APPEARED!
A SOLID HIT THAT FLIES TO THE LEFT FENCE!
THAT'S TETSU-SAN FOR YOU! SO RELIABLE!
O...OH NO... THIS GUY IS REALLY STRONG...
WE ABSOLUTELY CAN'T HAVE A HEAD-ON BATTLE WITH HIM.

DIAMOND no Ace

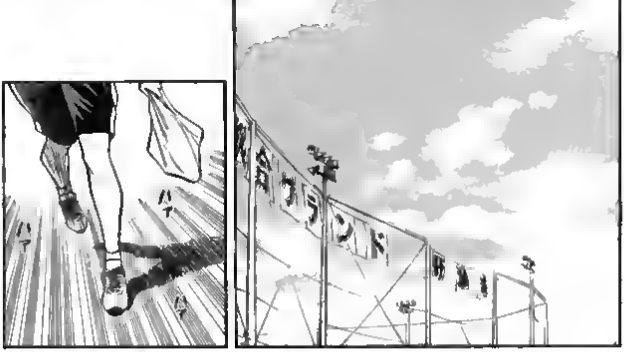
Eh?
11°
スッ

BUT .. THAT WAS A REALLY POWERFUL SWING I'VE NEVER SEEN A POP-UP TO THE PITCHER GO SO HIGH UP BEFORE....
IT STOPPED AT ONLY ONE POINT THIS INNING...
AWW... WHAT A WASTE...

YEAH...
AS EXPECTED, HE'S STILL NOT VERY GOOD AT HITTING BREAKING BALLS
YOU'RE EXERTING TOO MUCH STRENGTH WHEN YOU SWING MASUKO-SENPAI

CHAPTER 46
WHAT IS TRUST?

YOU'RE ALSO EXERTING TOO MUCH STRENGTH WHEN YOU PITCH...
IF THIS CONTINUES, YOU PROBABLY WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD DOWN KIRYU'S LINEUP, Y'KNOW?



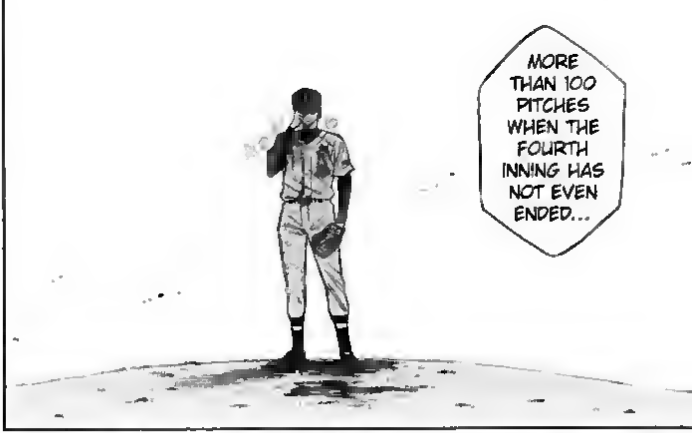
I FORGOT TO BUY THE BANDAGES, SO I WENT BACK TO BUY THEM... BUT THEN I FORGOT TO BUY THE WHEAT TEA BAGS, SO...
I'M SORRY, I'M LATE!
FIRST YEAR BASEBALL TEAM MANAGER YOSHIKAWA HARUNO

EH?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
AND THEN I MET A STRAY CAT...
...

BALL!
FOUR BALLS!
EH?
青堤
SEITEI

一 二 三 四 五 六
青道 3 4 3 1
青道 1 0 1
HOW DID FURUYA PITCH FOR IT TO BECOME LIKE THIS?
HOW COULD IT BE...
11 POINTS LOST IN FOUR INNINGS?!

I ONLY CAME BECAUSE I THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD BE AN INTERESTING MATCH WITH KIRYU HIGH...
WHAT KIND OF CRAPPY MATCH IS THIS! IT'S TOTALLY MESSED UP BECAUSE OF THAT PITCHER!
TSK..
WE OBVIOUSLY DON'T WANT TO SEE SEIDOU LOSING LIKE THIS...
LET'S GO HOME!
WE DON'T EVEN WANT TO JEER ALREADY..
AS EXPECTED, KIRYU'S LINEUP... AGAINST FURUYA'S UNSTABLE CONTROL...
THEY WON'T SWING UNLESS THERE ARE AT LEAST 2 STRIKES, HUH ...
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
HOW MANY PITCHES HAVE FURUYA THROWN CURRENTLY?
.....


MORE THAN 100 PITCHES WHEN THE FOURTH INNING HAS NOT EVEN ENDED...

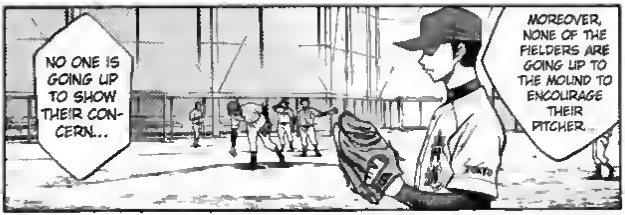
WHAT...

JUST SHUT UP AND WATCH FOR NOW!
YOU ARE PITCHING STARTING FROM THE SIXTH INNING.

ムキー
HOW CAN I KEEP QUIET AND WATCH AT THIS TIME!

NO... COACH!
I'VE COMPLETED MY WARM-UP ALREADY!
PLEASE LET ME PITCH! FOUR-EYES...
HEY...

KATAOKA IS REALLY EXTREME...
THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S PLANNING, BUT IF THIS GOES ON, THIS PITCHER WILL PROBABLY GET DESTROYED...


MOREOVER, NONE OF THE FIELDERS ARE GOING UP TO THE MOUND TO ENCOURAGE THEIR PITCHER...
NO ONE IS GOING UP TO SHOW THEIR CONCERN...

AT THE RATE THINGS ARE GOING, THIS PITCHER IS REALLY PITIFUL...

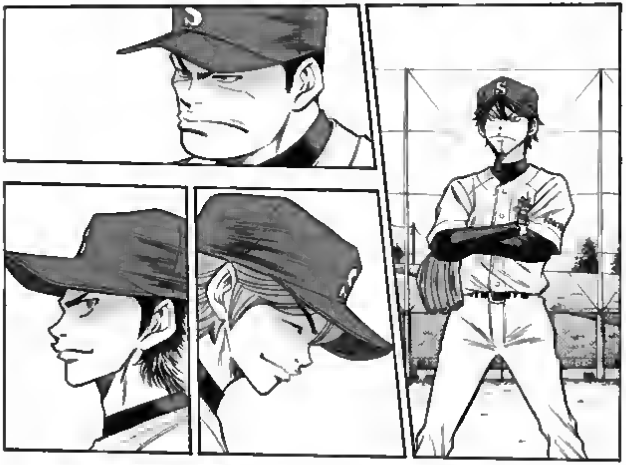
HE'S NOT PITCHING TIMIDLY JUST TO GET A STRIKE...
EVEN THOUGH HE HAS PITCHED SO MANY WALKS...
THIS GUY IS REALLY SOME-THING...
TIME-OUT...
EXCUSE ME...
IS HE AT HIS LIMIT?
OH NO...

WHAT SHOULD I DO TO NOT LET THEM GAIN ANY MORE POINTS?
MIYUKI-SENPAI!
EVEN THOUGH I'M UNWILLING TO ADMIT IT, IT IS TRUE THAT I'M UNABLE TO PITCH SWILLS WITH THE SPEED I'M SUPPOSEDLY ABLE TO ACHIEVE
BUT I DON'T WANT TO GET OFF THE MOUND WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING...
!

THIS GUY...
PLEASE GIVE ME SOME SUGGES-TIONS...
HIS EYES ARE STILL BLAZING WITH SPIRIT
IS NOT REACHING HIS LIMIT AT ALL...
EVEN THOUGH HE'S STILL SO ARRO-GANT AS USUAL...
GLUCK!
HE'S KEEP-ING HIS UN-HAPPINESS TO HIMSELF TO ASK FOR ADVICE FROM ME...
I'VE CON-FIRMED ONE THING...
HA-HA-HA-HA!

THIS GUY HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME AN ACE!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
What is he laughing at?
WH.. WHAT HAP-PENED?

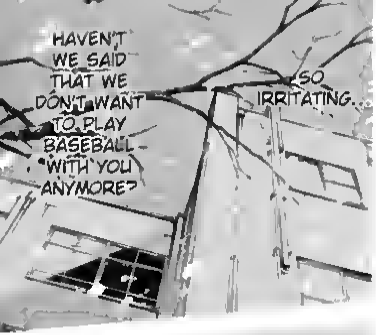
ALMOST ALL THE POINTS THEY'VE GAINED IS BECAUSE OF YOUR WALKS...
THEY'VE GOTTEN SEVEN HITS OFF YOU.
LISTEN UP. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT CALMLY...
EVEN THOUGH IT'S LIKE THIS, DO YOU KNOW THE REASON WHY TETSU-SAN AND JUN-SAN NEVER CAME UP TO ENCOURAGE YOU?
Eh?
TRUST YOU!
IT'S BECAUSE THEY...



GRR... I REALLY FEEL LIKE BASHING PEOPLE UP RIGHT NOW!
THOSE WHO ARE PISSED OF TO THE MAX..

ALTHOUGH THIS WAS WHAT EVERYONE DECIDED ON YESTER-DAY..

JUST PITCH AND TRUST THE FIELDING OF YOUR TEAMMATES!
ドン
DEALING WITH THE BATTERS IS NOT ONLY THE PITCHER'S JOB!
THIS IS MY SUG-GESTION FOR YOU.
YOU'LL HAVE TO LOOK AT MY MITT AND PITCH NEXT!
月道

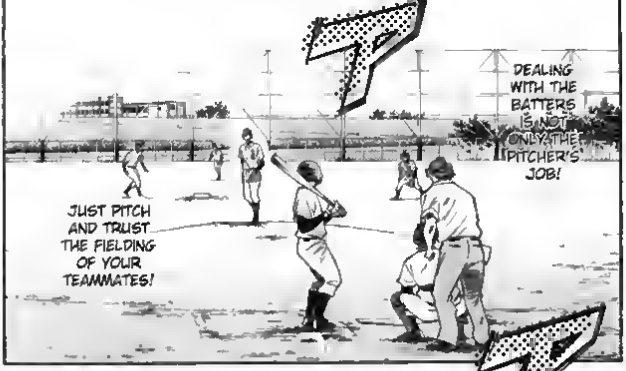

HAVEN'T WE SAID THAT WE DON'T WANT TO PLAY BASEBALL WITH YOU ANYMORE?
SO IRRITATING...

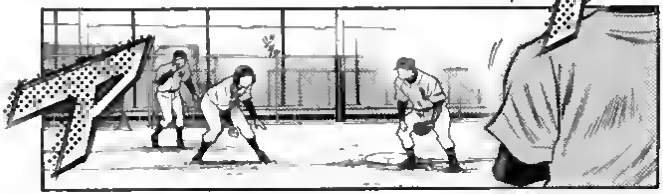
IF YOU WANT TO PLAY BASEBALL, GO ELSEWHERE TO DO IT!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT IN SUCH COLD WEATHER!?

IGNORE HIM. WHATEVER HE DOES IS NO LONGER OUR CONCERN...
HEY, I HEARD THAT THAT MONSTER IS TRAINING BY HIMSELF...

ドクン
TRUST!

WHAT HAP-PENED? CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE?
WANT TO GET OFF THE MOUND? WANT TO HAVE A PLAYER SUB-STITUTE?
I SEE...
YES, CHRIS-SEN-PA!
SAWAMU-RA... QUIET DOWN A BIT!
TOTALLY DIFFER-ENT FROM ALL THE PREVIOUS ONES I'VE BEEN TO...
THIS PLACE IS...
IT'S GETTING MORE AND MORE INTERESTING! THE REAL MATCH IS STARTING NOW!





DIAMOND NO. 1 Ace

CHAPTER 47
ENJOYING THE MATCH

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ドンッ
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!!
CENTER FIELD!
THE MOMENT THE BALL IS CAUGHT, RUN BACK HOME!

パシッ
GO!
HA
AA
AA
AA
AA!

DIEE
EEE
EE!

OUT!
ISASHIKI-SENPAI! THAT WAS SO COOL!
SO YOU AREN'T ONLY A THUG THAT PLAYS DIRTY HUH.
JUN THAT WAS EXCELLENT!
I THOUGHT THE BALL WAS PASSED HIGH AT LEAST BALANCE
SHUT UP!

HEY, FURUYA!
YOU FORGOT TO GET BACK TO HOME BASE TO CATCH MY BALL!
OH YA...
WHAT IF THE BALL I PASSED JUST NOW WASN'T CAUGHT?!
AAAAH?!
DON'T JUST PLAY ONE-MAN BASEBALL BY YOURSELF!
YOU IDIOT...
DAMN...
I UNDERESTIMATED THAT CENTER FIELDER...

K
DIDN'T WE AGREE TO HIT ONLY AFTER TWO STRIKES?
WHY DID YOU HIT THE FIRST PITCH?
I FELT THAT THE BALL WAS FLYING TOWARDS MY FACE AND INVOLUN-TARILY SWUNG AT IT
I'M SORRY ..
INVOLUN-TARILY
OSAKA
FOR PITCHERS THAT RELY ON THE PITCH SPEED LIKE YOU, WHAT'S IMPOR-TANT IS THEIR PITCHING PACE AND CONTROL...
IF YOU JUST USE BRUTE STRENGTH, THE PITCH WON'T BE FAST...
FURUYA ...
YOU GET IT NOW, RIGHT?

ザッ
WELL THEN... I GUESS I'LL GO AHEAD AND TAKE A POINT...
TO HELP A CERTAIN PITCH-ER...
ハァ
カキーン

DAMN...
A GROUNDER TO THE PITCHER..
ズバン
...
NOT GETTING A HIT CONSECUTIVELY FOR THE TWO TIMES HE WAS UP...
HE'S REALLY NOT BAD AS PITCHER..
BUT.. AS HE PITCHES TO THOSE LOWER IN THE LINE-UP, HIS SPEED GETS FASTER AND FASTER..
IF THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO GOT ON BASE, MIYUKI'S PERFORMANCE WOULD BE GOD-LIKE.
THAT IDIOT ...
IT WAS OFF ...
ISN'T THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THAT TOO MUCH?!

NO. 7
SHIRASU
THAT WAS BRILLIANT, TACHI!
NICE PITCHING!
!

HELL-LIKE PITCHING PRAC-TICE
HELL-LIKE RUNNING PRAC-TICE
K
...
HELL-LIKE... ETC...
HELL-LIKE WEIGHT LIFTING PRAC-TICE...
S
B
O
SHOWING THE FRUITS OF MY LABOUR ON THIS BIG STAGE...
PARTICIPAT-ING IN A MATCH IS REALLY ENJOYABLE!
♫

IT APPEARED! TACHI'S SNIGGERING FACE!
HE'S IN TIP-TOP CONDITION RIGHT NOW!
C. CREEPY
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM...?
TOKYO
NO. 8
SAKAI
IT'S ONLY DURING MATCHES THAT COACH WILL BE NICER THAN BEFORE
BUT THERE STILL WILL BE LOTS OF HELL-LIKE TRAINING WAITING FOR HIM WHEN HE GETS BACK
STRIKE! BATTER OUT!
AAH. THREE UP, THREE DOWN.
I HAVE TO GO UP TO SAVE THIS NOW!
スパッ!

IS THE HEART OF THE TEAM, HUH...
THE ONE THAT'S KEEPING THE POINT LOST TO ONLY TWO, THE ACE PITCHER, PLAYER NUMBER 1...
DURING THE PERIOD WHERE YOU COULDN'T PRACTICE YOUR PITCHING, DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO PRACTICE PLACING A BALL BETWEEN YOUR FINGERS?
EVEN THOUGH THE MATCH HAS YET TO END, YOU CAN USE THIS CHANCE TO TEST IT OUT!
!
HEY, FURUYA
THIS INNING, YOU WANNA TRY PITCHING THAT BALL?
That ball?

HEY HEY!
K
OSAKA
HEHE...
K
LOOKS SO CREEPY...
THIS PERSON LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY ENJOYING THE MATCH...
I'VE GOT THE FEELING THAT I CAN HIT ANYTHING TODAY!
YOU BETTER NOT PITCH FOUR BALLS TO ME, FIRST-YEAR BRAT!

BUT IT'S ABOUT TIME THAT WE START ENJOYING THE MATCH INSTEAD!
HE DEFINITELY WON'T BE SWINGING THE BAT..
DON'T WORRY
TAKUTO

Huh?
THROWS LIGHTLY
A SLOW BALL?
110キロ
EVEN THOUGH THE SITUATION IS THAT HE'S UNABLE TO PITCH A STRIKE, BUT ISN'T IT LAME TO HAVE SPEED LIKE THIS?
HEY, HEY!
STRI...
STRIKE!
桐生
K
09

YOU'LL SWING BEFORE THE COUNT IS TWO STRIKES ANYWAY!
IT'S NOT LIKE...
THIS GUY...
DESTROY HIM!!
IT'S OKAY NOW...
K

BUT I DEFINITELY WANT THIS GUY TO GET A STRIKEOUT!
EVEN THOUGH I'M HIDING IT FROM FURUYA...
NODS
IT'S OKAY EVEN IF THE BALL DOESN'T FALL. THE POINT IS THAT THE PITCH MUST BE LOW.
THE FORK-BALL IS JUST BAIT..

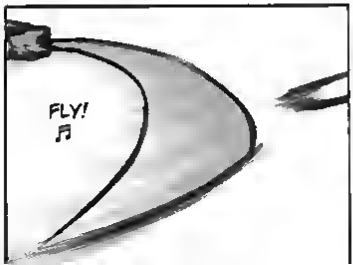
WILL CHANGE THE MOMENTUM OF THIS MATCH!
STRIKING THEIR ACE OUT...

WELL THEN...
WHAT KIND OF BREAKING BALL WILL YOU SHOW ME?
I GUESS I'LL JUST THROW WITH ALL MY STRENGTH..
COME, COME, COME!
DIAMOND no A Ace

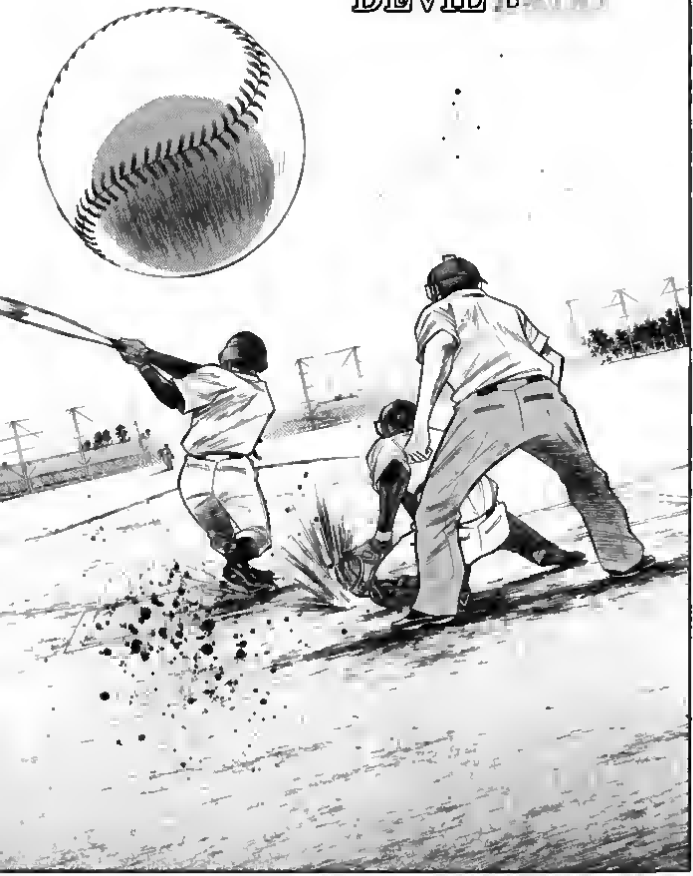
COME,
COME,
COME,
COME!

WITH A
BAM...

A FAST...
FASTBALL?


FLY!
♫

CHAPTER 48
DEVIL B



S

BUT THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW MIYUKI STEPPING BACK TO CATCH A BALL!
I DON'T REALLY GET IT EITHER

WHAT... WHAT WAS THAT PITCH JUST NOW?
IT SEEMS LIKE A FASTBALL... BUT DROPS SUDDENLY?

THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN THIS KIND OF PITCH... OF COURSE I CAN'T CATCH IT!
HA HA HA!

INSTEAD OF SAYING IT'S A FORKBALL...
A HIGH-SPEED FASTBALL THAT DROPS ONLY WHEN IT REACHES THE BATTER...

IT WOULD SEEM LIKE THAT IDIOT, AFRAID OF PITCHING A WILD PITCH, DIDN'T GRIP THE BALL TIGHTLY ENOUGH...
IT WAS SIMPLY BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT PREPARATIONS.

DEVIL BALL
SFF
IT'S MORE APPROPRIATE TO SAY IT'S THE 20TH CENTURY'S LAST...

EVEN THE SMILE ON THIS GUY'S FACE HAS DISAP-PEARED.

BUT... THIS IS A MISTAKE TO BE HAPPY ABOUT FOR FURUYA

MADE FURUYA PITCH HIS FIRST EVER BREAKING BALL IN A MATCH?!
C-COULD IT BE... MIYUKI HE...

REALLY, I HAVE TO HAND IT TO HIM. RECKLESS ATTEMPTS ONE AFTER ANOTHER...

AND... PULL OUT FURUYA'S GREATEST LATENT POTENTIAL
BUT THAT'S BECAUSE HE WANTS THE PITCHER TO EXPERIENCE FIRST-HAND THE IMPOR-TANCE OF CONTROL.

I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE DID.
SEEING AS HOW HE HIMSELF COULDN'T CATCH THAT BALL...

スッ
MIYUKI, HE ... FULLY UNDER-STANDS THE MEANING BEHIND A "PRACTICE MATCH" ...
LET'S END THEM OFF WITH YOUR SIGNATURE HIGH FAST-BALL!
IT'S EASIER TO GET THINGS DONE WHEN THE BATTER IS SHAKEN UP THIS MUCH...

THE MATCH IS STARTING TO CHANGE...

NOT BAD!
STRIKE!
NICE PITCHING!
THAT WAS AWE-SOME!
NICE PITCH-ING!
DON'T BE PETTY AND KEEP IT ALL TO YOURSELF!
IF YOU'VE GOT THE SPEED YOU SHOULD TAKE IT OUT AND SHOW IT TO US!
THAT WAS THE BEST PITCH YOU'VE HAD TODAY!
NICE PITCHING FURUYA!
NICE PITCH-ING!

THOSE ARE YOUR TEAMMATES HEARTFELT COMPLIMENTS FOR YOU!
SO? ISN'T IT EXHILA-RATING?

STOP BLANK-ING OUT AND PITCH!
WHETHER YOU WANT TO CHANGE OR NOT, DEPENDS ON YOUR-SELF...

IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN THAT KIND OF FORK-BALL...

...

I GUESS FURUYA S NOT THE TYPE TO BE A SIDE CHARACTER THAT WE CAN IGNORE...
HEHE...

DON'T BE ANGRY JUST BECAUSE OF A FRESHMAN...

YOU CAN PROVE IT TO EVERYONE TOMORROW!
ムー
YOU'RE THE ACE!

THEN I'LL ALSO BE ABLE TO BECOME THE STARTING CATCHER...
WELL, BUT THAT'LL ONLY BE POSSIBLE IF WE'RE A BATTERY TOMORROW I GUESS...
...MIYAUCHI...

I FINALLY GET THE REASON WHY KATAOKA IS USING HIM NOW...
SO HIS REAL ABILITY IS LIKE THIS...
YOU WOULDN'T THINK THIS GUY IS THE EXACT SAME PERSON FROM THE FIRST INNING.
WOAAAAH, REVIVED!
HIS PERFORMANCE IN THIS INNING IS PERFECT!

青道

AS EXPECTED, THIS GUY IS REALLY STRONG...

IT'S OKAY EVEN IF WE DOESN'T GO UP...
YE... YES!
SAWAMURA, AFTER FURUYA GOES UP TO BAT, YOU'RE UP.
YOU'VE PROPERLY WARMED UP, RIGHT?
SHUT UP! YOU APPARENTLY ARE ABOUT TO COLLAPSE!
JUST GO UP AND BE PREPARED TO BE STRIKED OUT!
I DEFINITELY CAN'T MESS IT UP!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'M PITCHING SINCE I'VE ENTERED THE FIRST-STRING.
DAMN... WHATEVER IT IS, I HAVE TO CALM DOWN..
W-WHY WOULD I BE NERVOUS?!
HEY,HEY! YOU LOOK CONSTIPATED...
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE NERVOUS?
IT'S THE MUCH AWAITED PERFORMANCE AS A FIRST-STRING MEMBER...

青道

WOAAA AH! A HOME-RUN!
I GOT IT
THE BALL FLEW SO... SO FAR!
IT FLEW TO THE BACK FENCE OF THE CENTER-FIELD!

NOT ONLY DID HE STRIKE THAT PITCHER OUT JUST NOW, HE GAVE HIM A FINISHING STRIKE!
HAHA HA, THAT PUNK ..

HE'S REALLY THE MONSTER ROOKIE.
MON-STER ...

THIS IS NATIONAL HIGH-SCHOOL BASE-BALL.
TACHI..

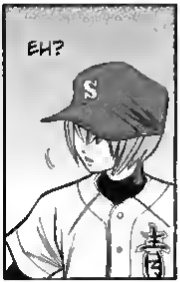
WHO WILL BE GOING AROUND HAVING PRACTICE MATCHES.. WON'T THAT BE FUN?
THERE ARE LOTS OF IN-TERESTING PLAYERS AROUND THE WORLD...

SHOW THEM WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF!
EVERY-THING'S FINE AS LONG AS YOU ENJOY PITCHING!
ENJOY IT TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT, TACHI!

ISN'T THIS KIND OF MATCH EX-ACTLY WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO?
THAT'S RIGHT, TACHI!
OSAKA KIRYU'S TEAM CAPTAIN
SHIBATA, KYOUHEI

TACHIBANA! PLEASE DO ENJOY THE MATCH!
YOUR SMILE IS AWESOME!
THE PLAYERS REGAINED THEIR CONFIDENCE FROM HIS WORDS ALONE.
AS EXPECTED OF THE COACH OF THE TEAM THAT REPRESENTS THE OSAKA PREFECTURE
HMPH... I WAS THINKING OF FINISHING THEM OFF IN ONE GO, BUT...
THE HOMERUN BY THAT GUY WASN'T NEEDED...
DAMN...
WE MADE THAT COACH SHOW HIS TRUE ABILITIES, HUH?
HA HA HA!
SPECIAL TRAINING WILL START WHEN WE GET BACK.
I'M NOT NERVOUS AT ALL!
HAHAHA!
THAT'S WHY I'M TELLING YOU NOT TO BE SO NERVOUS!
HE'S JUST SPEAKING POLITELY TO A SENIOR.

WE'VE NEVER FORMED A BATTERY TOGETHER, HAVE WE?
SINCE THAT TIME...
TOKYO


EH?

AH
.....

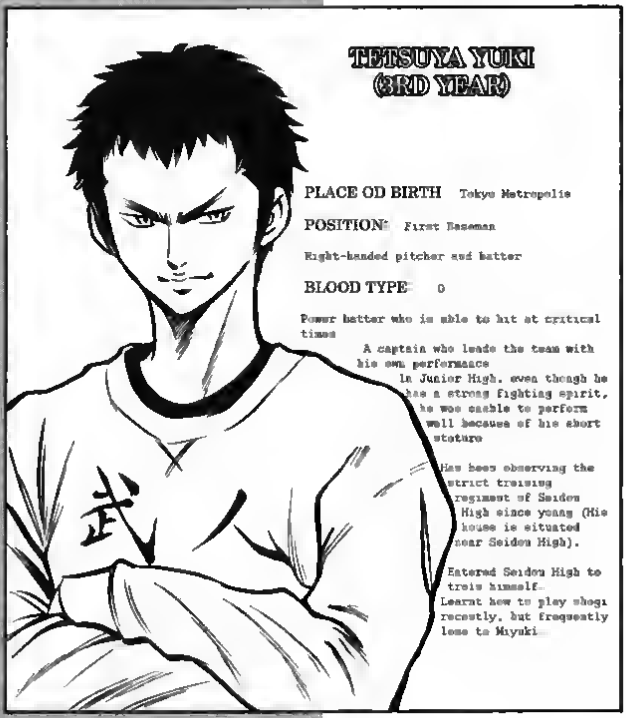
WHAT? STARTING TO GET NERVOUS AGAIN?
OF COURSE NOT!

UH... AH...
I WANT TO CONFIRM YOUR PITCHES AND YOUR BALL PLACEMENT
PITCH A FEW TO ME!

WHAT-EVER IT IS...
YOU JUST HAVE TO ENJOY THE MATCH!

SEIDOU PLAYER ENCYCLOPEDIA

Vol.9


TETSUYA YUKI
(3RD YEAR)
PLACE OD BIRTH Tokyo Metropolis
POSITION: First Baseman
Right-handed pitcher and batter
BLOOD TYPE O
Power batter who is able to hit at critical times
A captain who leads the team with his own performance
In Junior High, even though he has a strong fighting spirit, he was unable to perform well because of his short stature
Has been observing the strict training regiment of Seidou High since young (His house is situated near Seidou High).
Entered Seidou High to train himself.
Learnt how to play shogi recently, but frequently loses to Miyuki.

EXTRA CHAPTER

KAZUYA MIYUKI

BEING A CATCHER SEEMS LIKE A PRETTY BORING JOB!
I DON'T WANT TO BE A CATCHER!
EH? A CATCHER?!
I WANNA BE A CATCHER!

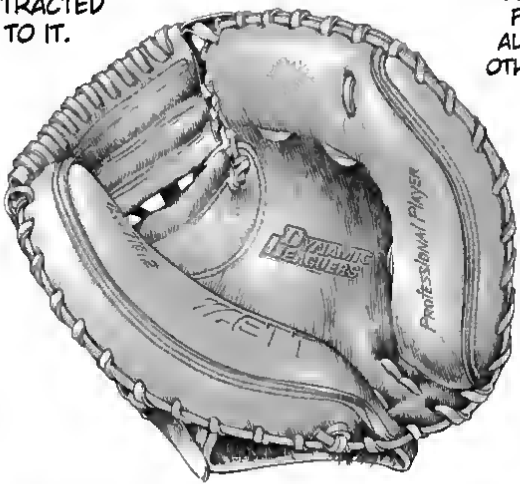
I WANNA BE...
ME!

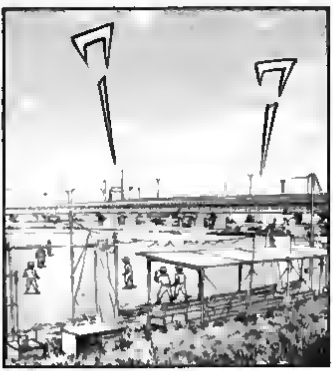
LISTEN UP. BEING A CATCHER IS ABOUT...
YOU KIDS REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING

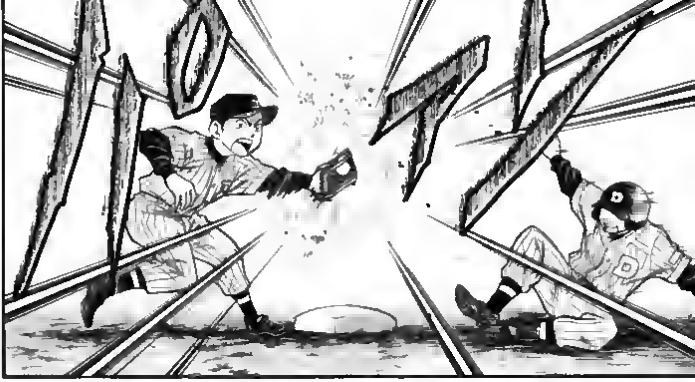
I WANNA BE A CATCHER!

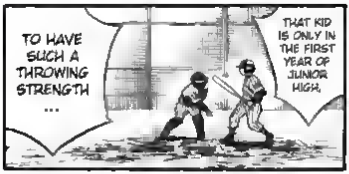
I WAS STRONGLY ATTRACTED TO IT.

THE MITT THAT WAS DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE OTHERS...








TO HAVE SUCH A THROWING STRENGTH ...
THAT KID IS ONLY IN THE FIRST YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH.

WOAH!
THAT WAS AWE-SOME!

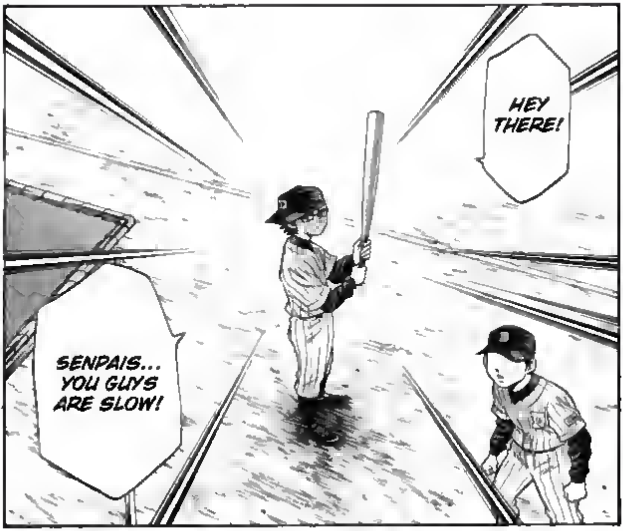
NO IT SEEMS LIKE HE ONLY WANTS TO BE A CATCHER..
OH REALLY? HE'S A STRANGE ONE..

REALLY, AN OUTSTANDING PLAYER CAME INTO OUR TEAM!
HAVING SUCH A STRONG THROWING STRENGTH, HE'LL PROBABLY BE AN EXCELLENT PITCHER TOO, WOULDN'T HE?

HUH?! WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I DARE YOU TO REPEAT THAT!
IT'S HARD FOR THE PITCHER TO DO A PICKOFF AT THAT SPEED!
UH... LIKE I'VE SAID... THE SECOND BASEMAN'S TOO SLOW!
ON THE FIELD, THE PLAYERS' BACKGROUND HAS GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ANYTHING, SO OUR AGE OR WHATSOEVER IS NOT A CONCERN!
.....
YOU... YOU BRAT!
YOU'RE JUST A FIRST-YEAR!

!!
MIYUKI, YOU IDIOT! YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING ANYMORE!
HAHAHA, SO, LIKE I'VE SAID..
DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY JUST BECAUSE YOU GOT THE STARTING POSITION AS A FIRST-YEAR!
AWW I'M NOT REALLY THAT AMAZING, YOU KNOW
THAT WASN'T A COMPLIMENT!
DAMN... YOU SHITTY BRAT..
YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT!
I'M GONNA BASH YOU UP SO BADLY THAT YOU CAN'T BRAG WITH THAT MOUTH OF YOURS ANYMORE!
YOU'LL REMEMBER THIS, SHORTY!
ザッ

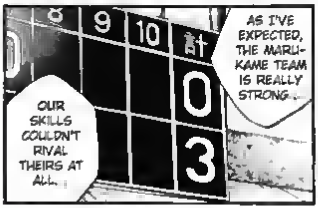
WA
WA
EHHHHHH? ARE YOU FOR REAL?
YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED ME OVER!
THAT BRAT WAS REALLY COCKY, I TELL YOU!
WELL, WHATEVER, I'LL DEFINITELY TEACH HIM A LESSON TODAY!
HUH?
IT'S BE TROUBLE-SOME IF HE RATS ON YOU!
DON'T OVERDO IT!
HAHA!
BUT I'M GUESSING THAT HE'S HIDING AWAY SOMEWHERE, AFRAID OF FACING US TODAY!



IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER I'M A SHORTY OR A FIRST-YEAR. THIS STARTING POSITION WAS WHAT I ACQUIRED WITH MY OWN STRENGTH.

SUCH AN INTER-ESTING POSI-TION...
I DEFI-NITELY WON'T GIVE IT UP TO ANY-BODY!

THE DEFENSE IS TOO SLOW!
WA-
YOU DAMN BRAT!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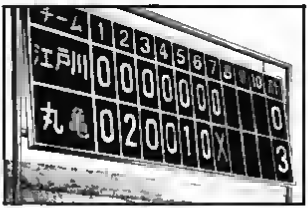
OUR SKILLS COULDN'T RIVAL THEIRS AT ALL.
AS I'VE EXPECTED, THE MARU-KAME TEAM IS REALLY STRONG.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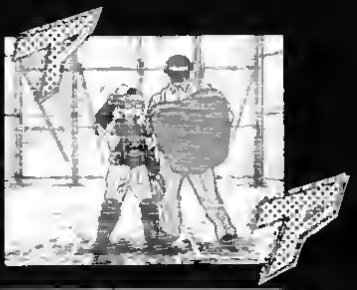
LET'S GO TO THE ARCADE BEFORE HEADING HOME
WHERE SHALL WE GO LATER?

THAT KID HAD BEEN PRACTICING DAILY LIKE A MORON, DIDN'T HE?
HE'S SERIOUSLY PSYCHO! WORKING SO HARD. WHAT IS HE PLANNING TO DO IN THE FUTURE?

KAZUYA, WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
LET'S GO HOME!

THE CATCHER ON THE OTHER TEAM WAS JUST TOO STRONG
SINCE IT'S AS IF HE WAS JUST PLAYED AROUND WITH BY THE CATCHER ON THE OTHER TEAM...
NEVERMIND, FORGET ABOUT HIM FOR NOW!
EVEN IF IT'S HIM, HE'S PROBABLY DEPRESSED TODAY
WHAT?
HE ACTUALLY ASKED FOR A SLOW CURVEBALL HERE?

SO...
SO AMAZING!



TAKIGAWA CHRIS, YUU
SO THIS IS THE FAMOUS NO.1 CATCHER IN THE KANTO REGION...

THERE REALLY ARE LOTS OF FRIGHTENING GUYS IN THIS WORLD...
HAHA...

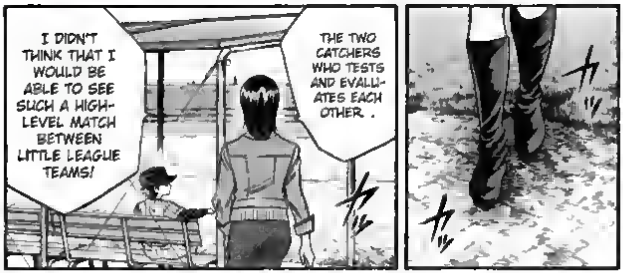
ACCURATE ANALYZING OF A MATCH...
A HIT THAT WOULD DESTROY THE PITCHER'S CONFIDENCE...
THE GAME-CALLING ABILITY THAT WOULD PULL OUT THE POTENTIAL IN A PITCHER

I WAS COM-PLETELY DEFEATED TODAY...
HA HA-HA-HA!

I'M GLAD OF THIS DEFEAT TODAY...
AAH... I WANNA GET STRON-GER FASTER!
OH YA! NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, WHY IS HIS NAME CHRIS? IS HE A FOR-EIGNER?
WE ARE REAL EDO PEOPLE WHO GREW UP HERE!

I'LL DEFI-NITELY BE STRON-GER AND STRON-GER!
COS' I'LL DEFI-NITELY BECOME STRONGER WITH THIS...

IT FEELS AS IF NOTHING ELSE MATTERS AS LONG AS BASEBALL REMAINS SO INTERESTING ..


I DIDN'T THINK THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE SUCH A HIGH-LEVEL MATCH BETWEEN LITTLE LEAGUE TEAMS!
THE TWO CATCHERS WHO TESTS AND EVALU-ATES EACH OTHER .

PROBABLY LIES IN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TEAM PLAYERS!
THE KEY TO TODAY'S VICTORY OR DEFEAT...

YOU SHOULD PLAY BASEBALL IN A PLACE FILLED WITH BETTER SKILLS, IN FACT...
PLAYERS THAT FILLED WITH FIGHTING SPIRITS CONSTANTLY WANTS TO IMPROVE THEMSELVES?
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF LEADING ..

OH RIGHT... WHO ARE YOU, NEE-CHAN?
YOU HAVE BIG BREAST!!

.... SHE MAKES SENSE.
.....

I... I'M THE ONE WHO'S ABOUT TO ASSUME THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT COACH IN SEIDOU HIGH TAKASHIMA REI
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, I'M HERE TO POACH YOUR TALENT...

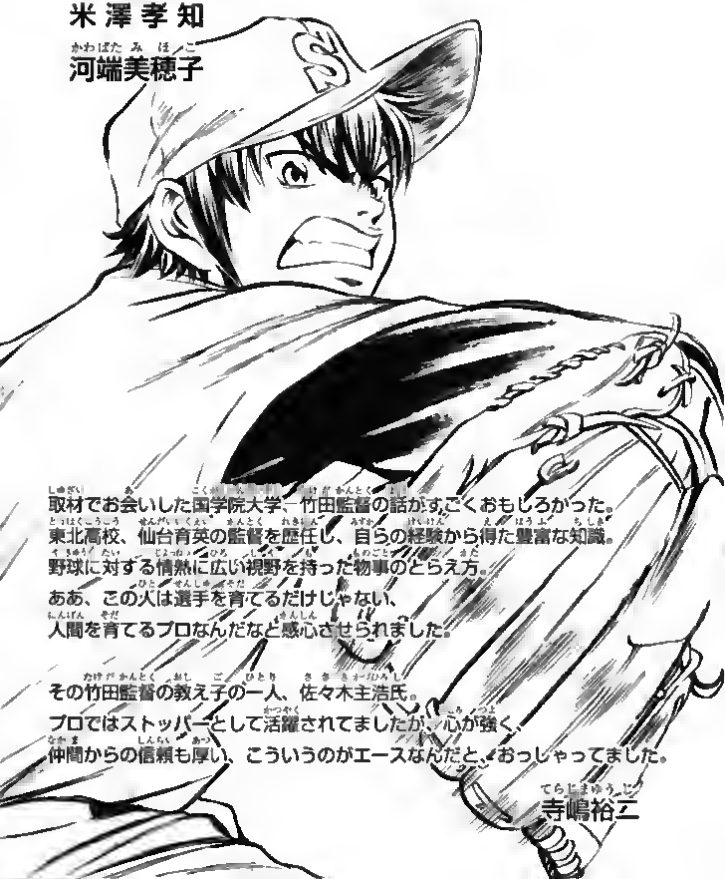
THAT'S RIGHT, THE FIRST PERSON WHO RECOGNIZED MY CAPABILITIES WAS REI-CHAN...
POACHING, HUH... BUT ISN'T IT A BIT TOO EARLY?
I'M STILL IN THE FIRST YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH!

NEE-CHAN, ARE YOU REALLY A SCOUT?
EHHH? YOU ARE ONLY IN THE FIRST YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH?
NO WONDER YOU ARE SO SHORT...

HA HA- HA- HA!
HM... ALL IN ALL, WHAT I WANT TO SAY IS THAT REI-CHAN HAS A GOOD EYE FOR TALENTED BASEBALL PLAYERS!
I ENTERED SEIDOU HIGH AFTER THAT.

—STAFF—
栗栖正義
山田聡子
米澤孝知
河端美穂子

—EDITOR—
KIICHIRO SUGAWARA
MASAKATSU MINO
SHUJI SATO



取材でお会いした国学院大学・竹田監督の話がすごくおもしろかった。
東北高校、仙台育英の監督を歴任し、自らの経験から得た豊富な知識。
野球に対する情熱に広い視野を持った物事のとらえ方。
ああ、この人は選手を育てるだけじゃない、
人間を育てるプロなんだなと感心させられました。

その竹田監督の教え子の一人、佐々木主浩氏。
プロではストッパーとして活躍されましたが、心が強く、
仲間からの信頼も厚い、こういうのがエースなんだと、おっしゃってました。

寺嶋裕二

一軍マウンドの重圧(プレッシャー)が
沢村をさらに進化させる…!!
青道に来る
きっかけとなった御幸に
自分を認めさせたい沢村は
強敵・大阪桐生相手に
どこまで投げられるか!?
これはお前の
一軍最終試験
なんだからな……
ダイヤのA
Ace of Diamond
第7巻予告
6回表
沢村登板
青道

あなたは、この本を読んで、どのような感想をおもちになりましたか。

このほかに、「講談社コミックス」の中で、どんな本を読まれましたか。

このつぎには、どんな作家の、どんなまんがを読みたいとお考えですか。

コミックス編集の参考にさせていただきたいと思います。「読後の感想」と合わせて、左記のところあてにお知らせください。

なお、お送りいただいたお手紙、おハガキにご記入いただいた郵便番号、住所、氏名などをふくんだ個人情報を、著者の先生にお渡しすることがありますので、ご了解のうえでお手紙をお送りください。

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少年マガジン・コミックス

大好評発売中!!

好評続刊シリーズ

はじめの一歩 ①～80 以下続刊 森川ジョージ
ひたむき少年、幕之内一歩の感動ボクシング巨編!!

Dreams ①～46 以下続刊 原作／七三太朗 漫画／川三番地
性格は悪いが野球は凄い！ 久里武志の痛快野球ストーリー!!

ゴッドハンド輝 ①～35 以下続刊 山本航暉
新人外科医・真東輝!! そのメスが輝く瞬間、奇跡が起こる!!

ジゴロ次五郎 ①～21 以下続刊 加瀬あつし
石川次五郎、エンジン全開!! 相棒と目指すはSAキング!!

ツバサ ①～19 以下続刊 CLAMP
愛しいさくらを、きっと救う!! 小狼は次元を越えた旅に挑む！

魔法先生ネギま！ ①～19 以下続刊 赤松健
立派な魔法使いになるため、ネギ（お子ちゃま）は女子校の先生に!?

エア・ギア ①～17 以下続刊 大暮維人
A・Tを駆って街を走る翔と林檎に立ちはだかるは暴風族!!

School Rumble ①～17 以下続刊 小林尽
恋する少女が好きな人を前に日々是、苦戦のラブコメディ♡

OPEN SESAME ①～17 以下続刊 河方かおる
謎の美少女・槇と出会い、大和の学校生活は嵐の気配!?

ぱすてる ①～16 以下続刊 小林俊彦
大好きなゆうと一緒に暮らす!? 麦とゆうのピュア恋物語。

涼風 ①～16 以下続刊 瀬尾公治
秋月大和・高3男子。住所は銭湯!? 女だらけに男が一人♡波乱の予感!!

あひるの空 ①～15 以下続刊 日向武史
149cm・最小の少年が見せる、最高のバスケストーリー!!

ガチャガチャ ①～15 以下続刊 玉越博幸
くしゃみ一つで女に変身!! 夢の体を得た晃、彼が企むのは何!?

★品切れの時は、本屋さんに注文してください。

少年マガジン・コミックス

大好評発売中!!

好評続刊シリーズ

トッキュー!!
①～⑮ 以下続刊 原作／小森陽一 漫画／ふなつ一輝
自らの命を顧みず、海を護る男達の頂点、それが特殊救難隊!!

おれはキャプテン
①～⑭ 以下続刊 コージィ城倉
野球漫画史上、もっともふさわしくないキャプテン誕生!?

OverDrive
①～⑫ 以下続刊 安田剛士
サエないミコトが特別な自転車と出会い変わり始める青春成長記!!

さよなら絶望先生
①～⑨ 以下続刊 久米田康治
超ネガティブ教師、糸色望、迷惑男で主人公。反面教師伝説発進!!

「コータローまかりとおる!」
①～⑥ 以下続刊 蛭田達也
鼻子もタジタジの強い母は現役忍者。忍法炸裂で週刊は大混乱!!

エリアの騎士
①～⑥ 以下続刊 原作／伊賀大晃 漫画／月山可也
サノカーを愛する兄と弟。2つの魂が起こす奇跡の物語!!

ケンコー全裸系 ウミショー
①～⑥ 以下続刊 はっとりみつる
突然現れた常夏娘あもろのせいで、海猫商業水泳部の気温は上昇中!?

ダイヤのA
①～⑥ 以下続刊 寺嶋裕二
名門校へ殴り込み!! 白球に懸ける沢村栄純の本格野球漫画!!

もう、しませんから。
①～⑤ 以下続刊 西本英雄
西本美雄が気になるトコへ突撃取材!! 爆笑スッコケルポ漫画。

FAIRY TAIL
①～⑤ 以下続刊 真島ヒロ
やりすぎ上等!! 俺達が噂の魔導士ギルド・妖精の尻尾だ!!

新約「巨人の星」花形
①～④ 以下続刊 原作／梶原一騎 川崎のぼる 漫画／ながよしゆき
これが野球!! これが伝説!! 天才打者・花形満の誕生物語!!

スマッシュ!
①～④ 以下続刊 咲香里
もっと強くなる!! 運命の出会いが翔太を未知の世界へと導く!!

素敵探偵ラビリンス
①～③ 以下続刊 原作／万城めいと 漫画／若山暢司
日都で起こる謎の「幻影事件」、解決するのはキュートな名探偵!!

★品切れの時は、本屋さんに注文してください。

雑とじコミック 第2弾!!
沢村が憧れ
追い続ける男
天才・御幸一也の過去が
今 明らかになる……
大人気御礼! 渾身の番外編!!
ダイヤのA
エース
寺嶋裕二
ここを切り開いて読んでください

つーかそれ
気が早すぎない？

そういや…
最初に俺に目を
つけてくれたのは
礼ちゃんだったな

俺…まだ
一年だし

今週は2本立て！

この後 結局
青道に入ることに
なるワケだけど…

まぁ…礼ちゃんの
選手を見る目は
間違ってなかった
ってことで…

はっはっはっ

★おわり★

ダイヤのA 本編は381頁から!!

ここから切り取って保存してください